

the chronicle

Ring of truth

Clown makes marriage proposal in the big top

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Mum to a tea

Mother's Day treat being laid on at the museum

Page 16



High five

Girls proud to battle their way to the finals

Page 40



£1.4m of cocaine is seized in police raid

POLICE have seized cocaine with a street value of £1.4 million after smashing a suspected drug dealing operation in Stourbridge.

Three shotguns were found by officers as they raided a property in Dennis Hall Road, Amblecote. Four men were arrested nearby and held for questioning.

The operation last Thursday was part of a crackdown on a drugs network believed to be dealing across the West Midlands. Officers said they swooped on the address following concerns raised by the public.

The four arrested men were later charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine and brought before magistrates in Wolverhampton on Saturday.

Two of the men, aged 25 and 26, are from Lye. The other two, both aged 41, are from Worcester. All four were remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 25.

Det Ch Insp Andy Parsons, crime manager for Dudley police, said: "The operation which led to these arrests was in direct response to community concerns regarding drug dealing in the Dudley borough."

"As always we take such reports extremely seriously and we'll investigate thoroughly." Anyone with information on drug dealing should call 101.

Fire chiefs questioned

FIRE chiefs welcomed members of the community to a consultation event to discuss plans for a new fire station in the Black Country.

The scheme will see the fire stations in Halesowen and Cradley Heath close, and a new station built to cover both areas. The location of the station is undecided. The fire station in Hagley Road, Halesowen, is due to close on March 31, with its firefighters redeployed in the area.

● Spotlight – page 2

BOROUGH LOSES BID TO BE A CITY

by Adam Burling & Heather Large

Council chiefs and business leaders today insisted the Dudley borough has a bright future despite failing in its bid for city status. They admitted that more work needs to be done in the area but said regeneration projects would see local towns transformed in the coming years.

MPs remain positive for the future

MPS ACROSS the Dudley borough said they were disappointed the city bid had not been successful but said the outlook was still bright for the borough – and pledged to support future applications.

James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, said: "Although it's a shame that we were not successful, Dudley Council deserves credit for taking the initiative and putting together such a strong bid."

Stourbridge MP Margot James added: "I very much hope that the next time the opportunity arises for Dudley to bid, it will be successful."

"Although I was right behind Dudley's bid for city status, it's not the be all and end all of the region's prosperity so there is nothing to be dispirited about," she said.

Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, said city status could have been a catalyst to attract new investment, new trade and new jobs.

"Like everyone who grew up in Dudley I can remember the town's better days, but I refuse to accept that our best days are behind us," he said. "We need a new plan. I want to see concerts and plays in the castle and I want to see a university campus in Dudley. Above all, we need new ideas to attract new investment and new jobs."

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly added: "Although this is disappointing news the process that Dudley borough has been subjected to has increased the borough's profile."

Dudley's bid, which was made for the entire borough, was submitted in May 2011 just days before the closing date and highlighted its history and heritage as the "jewel in the crown".

It was announced on Wednesday that the borough had lost out, with Chelmsford, Perth, Scotland and St Asaph, North Wales all becoming cities to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Dudley Council Leader Councillor Les Jones said he was disappointed the bid had been unsuccessful but insisted it had been "important" in raising Dudley's profile.

He said he was keen for the borough try again for city status – if the council had more time to draw up its bid.

The council admitted it had spent just £500 on its bid.

Boost

"Although we haven't won, I believe the whole process has brought a boost to the borough and really helped to get it noticed," he said. "We always said this was a speculative bid and we took a relatively low-key approach but we always believed we had a chance of winning."

"We will take positives from this and move forward with our regeneration projects for the future."

He added: "I would definitely consider making another bid if the opportunity came up. I would like to have a bit more notice and have time to get some more public support behind the bid."

Regeneration chief Councillor Angus Adams said: "I'm very disappointed, especially considering the towns that have won, as I feel Dudley has just as much to offer as them. City status gives an area prestige but I don't think this will deter potential investors, and I'm happy with the impact that the bid has had."

He said the £10m project to revamp Castle Hill in Dudley showed the borough was "punching its weight" and had ambitions to be one of the country's top tourist sites.

● Celebrate – page 2

Fundraiser for crash victim



Alex Bidlock, landlady Mandy Jordan, Carl Wood, Gavin Molineaux and Kirsty Jordan host a charity night in aid of 48-year-old Andrew Shaw at The Church Tavern

CUSTOMERS at a Black Country pub have held a fundraising night for a friend who suffered serious injuries in a car crash.

Andrew Shaw, aged 48, was involved in the crash just over two weeks ago, when his car collided with a lorry in Coventry. The self-employed shed builder of Park Road, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill is still in an induced coma. He also had to have his leg

amputated. His wife Rose is keeping vigil at his hospital bedside. His friends and landlady Mandy Jordan organised a fundraising night at his local pub the Church Tavern, High Street. Gavin Molineaux, aged 33, of Old High Street, said: "We understand he is no longer in any danger, but still very ill."

The event included an auction of goods donated by customers and businesses.

Specialist team may tackle bad tenants

DUDLEY Council is considering setting up a specialist team to deal with bad tenants after latest figures show more than 800 complaints were made about anti-social behaviour at council homes in the last year.

The figures also show tenants from six households were evicted. Residents say there are recurring problems – and they feel the council should be cracking down on bad neighbours.

In total there were 823 incidents in the borough reported to the authority over the last 12 months. The council says it is now looking at setting up a specialist team to deal with anti-social behaviour on problem estates. It says evictions are used as a last resort.

The majority of calls were made by people concerned about noisy neighbours or gangs of youths congregating outside their homes.

The total of incidents reported has fallen from 1,080 in the previous financial year.

A report to Dudley Council states: "An option appraisal is currently being undertaken on the Housing Manager's role in anti-social behaviour case management and whether we could make service improvements through the establishment of a specialist team in housing to respond to anti-social behaviour."

Work starts on welcome

WORK will get under way on a £300,000 scheme to create a new welcome plaza featuring a shop and cafe at Dudley Zoo in September next year.

It is the latest project in a busy programme as the tourist attraction celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Before construction starts, restoration work will begin on the chairlift in May. Plans are also being drawn up for the renovation of four of the zoo's famous Tecton buildings.

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New fire station plans in spotlight

CONTROVERSIAL plans for a new fire station in the Black Country have come under the spotlight at a special community consultation event. Halesowen Fire Station is due to shut at the end of the month.

A new station is to be built to cover both Halesowen and Cradley Heath.

Campaigners had battled to save the Halesowen station but the costs

of the legal battle proved to heavy for them to continue the fight.

Before the new station is completed, Halesowen will be covered from the existing Cradley Heath station. Campaigners recently admitted defeat in their bid to force court action.

The location of the new station is yet to be decided, but fire chiefs have given residents the opportunity

to discuss with them their concerns. A three-hour consultation event was held at Reddall Hill Primary School in Cradley Heath at the weekend. This was the second of two consultation meetings which are being held so people can voice their opinions about the proposals.

Michael Bird who has lived in Halesowen for 50 years said: "It is worrying, I didn't really like the idea

when I heard about it, and so I came down here to see what was going on." Carl Pruden of Carnegie Road in Rowley Regis said: "I was very shocked when I heard they were closing down the stations. It is worrying for people here, it always will be when they say they are going to move your fire station further away. Of course it all depends on where it is built"

Residents refuse to give up the fight

RESIDENTS are determined to keep on fighting for crossings on a stretch of road "before someone is killed" - despite appeals already being rejected by council chiefs.

There have been demands for pedestrian crossings to be installed in Cinder Bank, Dudley, following a spate of accidents.

Families have complained drivers are speeding along the route after leaving the adjoining Dudley Southern Bypass, which was recently named as one of the worst accident blackspots in the Black Country.

But Dudley Council said the work cannot be carried out as there is already "too much street furniture" there. Residents have now started a petition in the hope the authority will take action "before someone is killed".

Ian Flower, aged 46, of Highbridge Road, will collect signatures from neighbours. He said: "I just can't understand the explanation that there is already too much street furniture - how is that more dangerous than the current situation? Someone will be killed if this carries on."

Handbook for tenants

COUNCIL tenants in Dudley can find out about their repairs and maintenance rights and responsibilities in an updated handbook.

It includes information and guidance about the council's repairs service and is being distributed to all new tenants. It will also be available to download.

Councillor Adrian Turner, said: "It is very important tenants have a copy of this handbook."

"This handbook lets tenants know how Dudley Council can help, what is on offer and what to do in an emergency."

See www.dudley.gov.uk

Council online

DUDLEY Council's next full meeting will be broadcast live online.

The authority's 72 councillors will gather on April 16 for a full council meeting. It will take place at Dudley Council House, Priory Road, from 6pm. Visit www.dudley.gov.uk

Plenty to celebrate in light of blow to city bid



Leader of Dudley Council, Les Jones, explains why the future remains bright for the borough, despite the city bid decision

"There is still much to celebrate in our borough, and that is the reason why we submitted our bid for city status. It has been an opportunity to celebrate our past and highlight the ambition we have for our future."

"Of course, we always knew there was a lot of competition for city status, but I am very proud we have been able to use this as an opportunity to show that this borough regularly punches above its weight."

"The bid we submitted in May last year highlighted the pages from our history books including the fact that the borough is the birthplace of the industrial revolution, our geological history spanning millions of years, the internationally renowned limestone caverns and geological sites at Wren's Nest, the mediaeval market in Dudley, the historic parklands of Halesowen, the unique glass heritage of Stourbridge and Brierley Hill and much more."

"We spent just £500 on preparing and submitting the bid, which in my view represents great value for money when considering the national profile the borough has received on the back of it."

"Our bid generated local, regional and national coverage in the media, much of which has highlighted the fantastic tourism, business and cultural heritage the whole of the borough has to offer."

"I am also very grateful to the people who backed the bid, and saw it as an opportunity to kick start a brighter future."

"The Black Country Chamber of Commerce produced a petition, which was

"I am also very grateful to the people who backed the bid, and saw it as an opportunity to kick start a brighter future."

signed by more than 1,300 people.

"I was delighted so many people shared our view of a proud past and an ambitious future."

"This is by no means the end, but the beginning of a very bright future for Dudley borough. We are still forging ahead with plans for a regeneration revolution to improve our towns, to boost trade and tourism."

"The £50 million Tesco redevelopment in Stourbridge, the new market place in Dudley, and the new college developments are all gathering pace."

"The development at Castle Hill will also create jobs and boost the number of visitors to the borough."

"We will continue to work to celebrate the people who make this borough a fantastic place to live and work. We have a busy year ahead with the Olympic celebrations here in the borough, and there are lots of events to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee."

"We often say that Dudley doesn't shout enough about all of our successes. By taking part in the city bid we have opened doors to do exactly that."

"I remain very proud of what we have achieved and proud of the borough where I live and work."

Liz devastated by bike theft



Liz Hill whose trusty bike was stolen from Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley

A HOSPITAL worker who always goes the extra mile to help patients in need has fallen victim to a heartless bicycle thief.

Liz Hill, a ward clerk at Dudley Russells Hall Hospital, was distraught to discover her trusty bike had been stolen at the end of a 12-hour shift.

She had parked it in the bicycle rack at the main entrance to the hospital. The 38-year-old, who is also a hospital "customer

care ambassador" often used her bike to return possessions left behind by patients. But she now has to walk from her home in Kingswinford to the hospital as she saves to buy a new bike.

She said: "I now won't be able to help my patients in the same way, as I am having to walk everywhere."

"It upsets me and makes me angry to think I can't help."

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Future of stores is unknown

FIVE Focus stores which closed when the chain went into administration face an uncertain future after failing to attract new tenants.

The DIY outlets are back in the hands of their landlords after administrators did not receive any "viable" offers.

The administrators said it was now the responsibility of the landlords to continue the search for new firms to take over. All of the stores closed down last June, with more than 100 jobs lost.

Administrators Ernst & Young moved in and started looking for firms willing to take over the sites at Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Kingswinford, Aldridge and Walsall, but none were found. The landlords of each site originally refused offers for the leases to be surrendered.

A total of 30 jobs went at the store in Dudley Road, Kingswinford, 17 went at a one in the Peel Centre, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton, along with 17 at Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, 18 at Walsall Retail Park and 19 in Coppice Lane, Aldridge.

Focus went into administration at the beginning of May.

Helpers pull in £26,000

FUNDRAISERS have helped bring in around £26,000 to pay for services at a Stourbridge hospice.

Almost 700 people joined in the annual Mary Stevens Hospice Santa jog in December.

Organisers said they were delighted with the success of the event as around 200 more people took part than in previous years.

Cash was collected from sponsorship following the 5k race held in Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park.

Kinver Rotary Club brought their sleigh to the event with Father Christmas giving away presents to children on the day.

Talking family

HAGLEY Mothers' Union will have a talk about family matters for their next branch meeting, at St Saviour's Church on March 15 at 2.30pm.

Joyce Bush, former president of the Mothers' Union, will give a talk called Missing you, Missing me.

Concern as homes scheme moving too slow

A SCHEME to develop part of a Black Country town has not progressed as quickly as expected and concern over traffic congestion remains a key problem to be solved, councillors claim.

Plans to build new homes in Foredraft Street, Cradley, remain in the pipeline and Dudley Council has entered into talks with housing associations interested in the site.

Outline planning permission for the creation of new shops, 14 flats and a car park have also been approved for Windmill Hill.

But despite this, members of Dudley Council's regeneration and culture scrutiny committee said plans had not moved at the speed they had first expected.

Improvement of both areas form part of a regeneration scheme first drawn up by the authority in 2007.

Progress

Members of the committee made their comments when given a progress report on the scheme at a meeting on Wednesday. Councillors said they were also con-

cerned about continuing problems with traffic congestion in Windmill Hill which they said had not been addressed in the report.

Committee chairman Councillor Ken Turner said: "It is fair to say this scheme has not moved as fast as we expected although some progress has been made."

"However, there are still problems with traffic congestion in Windmill Hill and I can see no solution to this which has been put forward at the moment."

"This is a serious issue and needs to be addressed in any regeneration plans for

this area." Councillor John Woodall suggested making the area a red route to prevent cars being parked along the road and improve the flow of traffic in the area.

Improving

Officers said they planned to work with developers on improving road junctions along Windmill Hill to try and deal with the problem.

But they said more radical measures such as buying up land to widen carriage-ways were not feasible in the present economic climate.

Explosive end to car park is the key to demolition plan

More than 100 properties will be evacuated when Stourbridge's Bell Street car park is blown up and turned to rubble in seconds, say the contractors in charge of bringing the building down.

by Heather Large

Explosives will be used to help bring the car park down to make way for a new £50 million Tesco redevelopment.

More than 100 nearby properties will be evacuated.

The demolition is due one day next month and an exclusion zone surrounding the site will be in place for 24 hours.

The exclusion zone will take in sections of the town's ring road and residents who have to move out of the homes will be able to go to an evacuation centre.

Contactors Bowmer & Kirkland said that preparation work to remove three walkways between the car park and the Crown Centre were due to begin last weekend.

The car park will be blown down sometime early next month and the work will start to detach the shopping centre from the listed town hall before it is then knocked down gradually.

Work to clear the

complex is expected to take three to four months.

Both the library and the Crystal Leisure Centre will be closed on the demolition day - a date for which has not yet been released.

Contracts manager Christian Parnell said the car park would be brought down in seconds.

Constructed

He said: "Because of the car park's age and the way it was constructed, a controlled explosion is the best method."

Some preparation work has already begun to create a temporary entrance to the town hall off Market Street.

Meanwhile the historic mosaic has been safely removed from the floor of the Crown Centre for safe keeping.

Tesco spokesman Jonathan Simpson said they were aiming to have the new supermarket open in time for Christmas 2013.



Keeper Luke Millar and Dudley College animal management student, Jemma Jacques, aged 18 of Tipton, with Humboldt penguin chicks Pete and Louis



Dudley Zoo trainee Hannah Follows, senior keeper, Laura Robbins with the tortoises

The pitter patter of penguins

THE PITTER patter of tiny webbed feet has been echoing around Dudley Zoo.

Keepers are accompanying 10 week-old Humboldt chicks, Pete and Louis, on their morning poolside stroll.

The youngsters' daily waddle takes them from the bird cabin, where they are being reared, 250 yards across the site to the pool where the zoo's 70-strong breeding colony is. Curator Matt Lewis said the chicks had been hand-reared because their parents had deserted the eggs.

"It may be an unusual sight to see baby penguins putting their best feet forward with their keepers for a morning walk to the pool, but taking them there during the day will help them adapt to living in the pool when they are more independent."

Meanwhile a teenage animal lover has landed her dream job as an apprentice keeper at Dudley Zoo. Hannah Follows, aged 16, became passionate about animals from her first visit to the zoo when seven.

She left Ellowes Hall School in Gornal with her heart set on becoming a keeper.

"My job is really amazing. I love it," said Hannah, of Vale Street, Gornal who works in the animals on the farm section.

NEWS in brief

School pupils boost hospice

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Dudley have done their bit to raise funds for Acorns Children's Hospice.

Pupils at Roberts Primary and Milking Bank Primary schools, Gornal, responded to an appeal for goods to stock the Acorns' store in the town by donating gifts to be sold.

Area retail manager Lindy Welch said: "We were really impressed by these great schools, which have helped us raise urgently-needed funds to help care for Acorns' children."

Golf group raises cash for hospice

A CHARITY golf day has raised £350 for Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge.

Members of Stourbridge Old Edwardians Golf Society held the event in memory of Mel Williams, a former player and president of Stourbridge RFC, who died in 2009.

Hospice head of fundraising Janet Jones said: "We are most grateful. Thanks go to all those who organised the golf day and to Worfield Golf Club for hosting the event."

Spring concert to raise funding

THE countdown is on for a spring concert by Hagley Community Orchestra and Clent Hills Singers.

The spring fundraising concert is to be held at St Saviour's Church, Hagley, on March 17 at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £8, with under-15s free, and the proceeds will go towards building an amenities block, including facilities for the disabled, next to St John's Church, Hagley.

Inquest opened on grandfather

AN INQUEST has opened on a grandfather who died following a car accident in Kingswinford.

Geoffrey Harris, aged 56, of Abberley Road, Lower Gornal, died after the crash in Stallings Lane. The case was adjourned. A man has been bailed on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Brass concert

THE Holborne Brass Quintet and its brass ensemble of Stourbridge will play at St James Church, Bridgnorth Road, Walsaton at 7.30pm on March 17. Tickets are £7.

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THIS advert, I am assured, is in the window of a local corner shop: "Astronomical telescope for sale. Use it to look at the Mickey Way."

DAMMIT, it has happened again. I stay in all day waiting for a delivery and, at 11.20am precisely find on the doorstep the courier's card, timed at 11.16am, announcing "Sorry, we missed you!"

Note the exclamation mark. The proper punctuation for a note of regret is a simple full stop. The exclamation mark is a way of saying: "We won! Again!"

At what stage in the delivery driver's training do they learn the art of knocking on the door with a feather and running like hell?

STRANGE, isn't it, how few jobs and even fewer Olympic sports, allow men and women to compete on genuinely equal terms and yet a TV show, Total Wipeout does it night after night? And makes us laugh into the bargain. The girl getting walloped with the giant foam hammer was priceless.

EYEWITNESS of the week award goes to the chap Up North who saw the weekend meteor glowing in the sky. He could not possibly have known whether it was one mile or a million miles away and yet confidently told the radio reporter: "It was about the size of a football."

"I WOULD love a big church wedding," declares a contributor to one of the online debates about gay weddings. Listen. I would love a big green Bentley. Just because you want something doesn't mean you can have it. And it certainly doesn't mean you have a human right to have it.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

I'm not clowning, will you make me happy?

SHE thought he was just clowning around – but little did circus performer Andrea Mihut know that her comedy partner was about to pop the question in the big top.

Blaze sees shoppers evacuated

DINERS were evacuated from a shopping centre food court after a fire broke out in a unit that was being refurbished.

Fire crews were called to Eat Central at Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre. People in the food court were evacuated and all entrances to it were sealed off as a precaution.

Staff at jewellers TH Baker, in the next court, were also asked to close while fire crews tackled the blaze on March 8.

The fire started in a hot air duct at the Hey Potato unit.

Contractors raised the alarm at around 12.30pm. Fire crews from Brierley Hill were called and brought the blaze under control.

However, the food court remained sealed off for more than two hours.

Around 1,000 people had packed in to watch the opening night of the Zippos Circus tour at Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre.

The spectacular show took a romantic turn as Emilion Delbosq broke off at the end of a comedy routine with a marriage proposal for his fellow clown and long-term girlfriend Andrea.

As he went down on one knee, Emilion was joined by the couple's three-year-old son Lewis. Andrea gleefully accepted.

"I was shaking, it was such a surprise to me," said 29-year-old Andrea. "Everyone was stopping, and I thought 'what's going on, something's going on' as they wouldn't let me leave after the routine. It was nice and something we will always remember."

Andrea had unwittingly donned a veil as part of a comedy magic routine.

At the end of the skit, she headed backstage but was stopped by Emilion and ringmaster Norman Barrett MBE.

Andrea was wide-eyed and brought her hand to her face in shock as Emilion was passed the microphone to ask for her hand in marriage.



Circus clown Emilion Delbosq with their son Lewis goes down on one knee to ask Andrea Mihut to marry him

100 sign up to ID scheme

A DUDLEY metal recycling firm's ID scheme which aims to combat the sale of stolen metal has topped 100 names. Mason Metals in Brierley Hill started the scheme in January. It was recently mentioned in Parliament as an example of good practice.

The project was devised to meet and go beyond local politicians' calls for more traceability on scrap metal transactions following an explosion in thefts of lead, iron and copper.

Commercial manager Neil Woodall said membership was now approaching 150 with customers returning to the site daily with questionnaires and relevant ID.

"We have around five people signing up every day, which is brilliant," he said. "The scheme is voluntary, so there is no pressure, but hopefully the fact that there is such a scheme running and many customers are happy to join says it all about the validity of business done here." Mr Woodall said the firm also completed waste transfer notes and were fully compliant with the British Metals Recycling Association's code of conduct.

Lions hold sale

DUDLEY Lions Club will hold a table top sale on March 17 to fund research into brain tumours.

It takes place at the Pensioners' Club, Kent St, Upper Gornal from 10am to 1pm. Some tables are still available. Call 07776084754 for details.

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MP calling for more cold help

A DUDLEY MP is calling for more help for the elderly during the cold winter months.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has signed up to Age UK's winter pledge after new figures showed that last winter there were almost 22,000 additional deaths among pensioners in England and Wales.

In Dudley North 60 more people died during the winter of 2008-2009 than during non-winter months.

In the West Midlands as a whole the figure was 3,850.

He wants more support for measures older people can take before a cold spell and is challenging energy providers to produce simpler tariffs.

Mr Austin has written to the Secretary of State for Energy urging action.

He said: "Each year thousands of people die due to cold related illnesses.

"In my constituency 60 more people died during the winter of 2008-2009 than during non-winter months," added Mr Austin.

"I've given my backing to Age UK's winter pledge so that we can help raise awareness of the dangers of cold weather and cold homes on pensioners' health."

Flowers event

A FLOWER arranging event will take place at Stourport Civic Hall next month. Floral artist Andrew Lloyd from Stourbridge will be giving demonstrations on April 4 at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10. Book on 01299 822575.

Police say park youths need to be kept busy not banned

SKATE ramps and sports areas could be built at a Black Country park to tackle anti-social behaviour – after police refused to ban youths gathering there.

The facilities at King George V Park in Wordsley – expected to cost around £31,000 – could include a shelter. The idea was put forward by the police and Dudley Council after scores of complaints about vandal attacks. Residents wanted a dispersal order giving police powers to break up gangs in streets around the park. But officers said there was not enough evidence for the laws to be enforced. And instead they have suggested building an area for youths to encourage them to behave responsibly. A sports coach could also be employed to hold sessions in the evenings at the park. Another measure will be keeping smaller entrances to the park open during the evening so police can access the site more quickly if there are reports of trouble.

Horses plan gets backing

AN ACTION plan to tackle the problem of stray horses plaguing streets around Dudley in the future has been backed by councillors after a year-long trial proved a "major success".

Dudley Council was forced to rethink the way it dealt with the stray animals following a surge in calls from residents about horses causing problems in streets and parks last year. An agreement was drawn up with police and the RSPCA to remove the animals found roaming near to highways. Around 120 horses have been collected and rehomed outside the borough since the launch of the scheme.

The partnership now forms part of the action plan that was supported by Dudley Council's regeneration and culture scrutiny committee last week.

The plan is expected to be given final approval by the authority later on this year. Under the scheme, residents will be encouraged to report stray horse sightings to the police or council.

The situation will be constantly monitored to ensure it does not lead to a rise in anti-social behaviour and the gates will be locked again if concerns are raised.

Residents are looking to set up a "friends of the park" group to move the plans forward and provide an outlet for any issues.

Ward councillor Geoffrey Southall said: "Youngsters in the area have drawn up a wish-list of what they would like to see at the park. It is all in the early stages and we would have to sort out funding and a planning application. The police said there was not enough evidence for a dispersal order."

A report to the Brierley Hill Area Committee stated: "A suggestion was made by the police to create a youth area west of Bells Lane about 100m into the park and encourage usage by lighting it at night."

Sixth form advice

PARENTS and pupils are invited to a sixth form open day at Holy Trinity International School, Kidderminster, on March 20 from 5pm until 7pm and staff will give advice. Call the school on 01562 822929.

Memories are made for this



Organiser Martin Jones and library assistant Rachel Shepherd want memories

PERSONAL memories from people in a Dudley town are wanted for a local history project as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

All Saints' Church, Sedgley and Sedgley Library want memories covering the past 60 years.

Stories and photos will be exhibited between June 2 and 5 at the Parish Hall in Vicar Street, over the Jubilee weekend.

Those taking part will also be able to make a voice recording of their story at Sedgley Library in Ladies' Walk each Saturday until March 31 from 11am to noon.

To book a slot call organiser Martin Jones on 07947 068023. Alternatively people can take in a written message of between 250 and 300 words.

Mr Jones said: "We want people to record their memories."

NEWS in brief

Bakers get in the mix with web TV

BAKERS from the Black Country have starred in a new web-based TV show.

Two bakeries from Dudley – Bostin Bakes and Nuthouse Bakery – as well as Tobizzzy2bake of Aldridge are featured in Bake Britain.

It aims to showcase small, independent, artisan bakers in Britain, which are producing cakes, bread, biscuits and run sugar craft and cake decorating workshops. Bostin Bakes offers a wide range of cakes while the Nuthouse Bakery, Brierley Hill specialises in hand-made cupcakes.

Police handout criminals' cash

POLICE in Dudley have donated £600 to two community groups in the borough.

The senior citizens woodwork group based at Meadow Road Youth Club in The Priory and an over 60s club at Wrens Nest Community centre have both benefited.

The cash has come through the Proceeds of Crime Act (Poca) which allows officers to recover money and assets gained through criminal activity.

Plans approved

AN extension creating bedrooms, a study and kitchen at a house in Halesowen has been approved.

Around 10 letters objected to the plans to the house in Manor Abbey Road but councillors granted approval.

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thechronicle

Father who kicked and punched puppy gets ban

Not coping with thefts



Sheena Hamilton by the wall, next to Himley Hall, which is a target for thieves

THIEVES are repeatedly stealing sandstone coping stones from a historic wall in Himley - more than 60 metres, worth an estimated £10,000, have gone in the last year.

Sheena Hamilton reckons the raiders are stealing the heavy cap stones to order - and she is appealing for passers-by to report any suspicious activity near her mile-long wall to police. Around 200 caps, made from a special, weather-resistant sandstone and thought to be worth more than £50 each, have

been stripped off the wall over the last 12 months.

"I think the thieves keep coming back as they get orders," said Sheena, aged 69, who together with her husband, 60-year-old Paul Burcher, owns 78 acres of land, called The Demesne, straddling Wombourne and Himley.

The land is part of the Himley Park conservation area, next to Himley Hall, on Stourbridge Road, and the wall is thought to be about 200 years old.

A FATHER who attacked a puppy - punching, kicking and swinging it by its lead - has been banned from keeping dogs and fined.

Shaun Meusz, from Oldbury, claimed in court he loved his three-month-old rottweiler-mix as much as a member of his family. He was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to the animal.

The 24-year-old shocked Sandwell magistrates by asking if the puppy could be put down instead of rehomed.

Sentencing Meusz, district judge Graham Wilkinson said: "A true dog lover would never treat a dog like this." The court heard Meusz was spotted abusing the puppy called Max in Bearmore playing field, Cradley Heath, at 11am on March 8 last year.

Witness Sonia Beynon said she saw Meusz picking the dog up by its skin. When the dog ran away, Ms Beynon said he kicked it so it rolled forward before he grabbed it and punched it in its side. She told the court she challenged the defendant, telling him "don't be so cruel" but was told to mind her own business. Meusz then lifted the dog off the ground by the lead and continued to kick it.

At the time of the attack, Meusz was on bail for being in possession of a pitbull-type fighting dog. The dog, Leo, had attacked another in Woodcroft Close, Cradley Heath, in August 2010. For both convictions Meusz, of The Moorings, was ordered to pay £2,500, given a six-month community order and a two-month curfew. He was banned from keeping dogs for five years.

Mr Simon Bradshaw, defending, had argued it was an isolated attack and stressed his client's genuine attachment to Max.

Cuts to centre opening

THE OPENING hours of a Dudley Council centre will be reduced from next month.

Dudley Council Plus, Castle Street, offers residents services such as the chance to pay bills and get advice on issues, including housing. The centre now opens until 6pm on weekdays but from April 2 its opening hours will be from 8am to 5.30pm weekdays and from 9am to noon on Saturdays.

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LETTERS

thechronicle

Passionate about our town centre

IN RESPONSE to Mrs L Sheldon, February 23, "Councillors should focus on barren town centre".

Dudley Council is passionately committed to our proud town centre and to suggest otherwise is unrealistic and unfair. The centre is a crucial part of our heritage and central to our future plans for the borough. It boasts a bustling market place, first class college, world-class tourist attractions, popular cinema and leisure complex and busy offices with more reinvigoration plans taking shape everyday.

New Heritage Regeneration Limited is co-ordinating physical redevelopment to revitalise the town's streets,

squares, key buildings, parks and gardens. Dudley College's £30million campus is under construction and this will help us to educate, future generations while acting as a proud signifier of opportunity and ambition.

Recently we consulted with residents and traders over £6m of proposed improvements to the well-used marketplace including the layout and appearance of the markets.

The Cavendish House site is under negotiation for a major supermarket with a 400-space car park and we are in discussions around the disused café near Stone Street Square. Furthermore, a comprehensive redevelopment

of the Castle Hill site that attracts 600,000 visitors every year will provide a single gateway to the town's thriving tourist quarter and a purpose-built new archive building.

It is understandable to feel unsettled in such challenging times but residents and visitors can be assured we will continue to work with them and our partners to do the very best for Dudley.

COUNCILLOR ANGUS ADAMS
Cabinet member for regeneration
Dudley Council

It's right to oppose extension at quarry

Re: LETTER from Mr Hassall relating to the quarry at Enville Road Wall Heath I write to advise both him and the residents that his comments do not portray the facts.

This so called quarry ceased being a quarry in the late 70s since then, many dates for its closure have come and gone and for years it has resembled a tip.

The point made regarding the firm employing 50 people may well be true. But this still remains a handful compared with the thousands of residents in and around Wall Heath and Kingswinford, who have suffered this eyesore for years. It is totally right that residents are opposing the extension of time for this quarry.

MR KEITH BODDISON
Tythebarn Drive
Wall Heath

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street, Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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Alternative needed to the main parties

SO JAMES Morris' legal challenge to save our fire station came to nothing.

No surprises there - although it did give James Morris many newspaper inches pretending to be against the cut, whilst he is quite happy to vote with his Tory chums in voting through the biggest cuts programme ever.

However, the bigger disappointment came from Labour. Despite Halesowen Labour Party activists joining residents and local trade unionists in campaigning to keep the fire station open, all Labour councillors on the West Midlands Fire Authority voted to close Halesowen Fire Station.

Again, should we be surprised when Labour nationally now agrees with the cuts and states it won't reverse any. If we are to defend our public services from cuts, schools from being privatised via academy status or save our NHS from the Tories we need a political voice opposed to austerity. No wonder trade unionists are set to discuss whether they should stand candidates in future elections.

TONY BARNESLEY
Halesowen

Raises a smile on question of debt

I HAVE a wry smile when I hear that Chris Kelly is asking what is happening about the Russell's Hospital Private Finance Initiative (PFI) debt.

Is he not aware that it was a previous Tory government that saddled us with this PFI fiasco in the first place, together with GP fundholding?

At least the latter got most of us a comfy waiting room to sit in, although I'm not sure it actually gave us a better service.

The PFI at Russell's Hall has been a disaster despite the best intentions of some of the staff involved.

PFI is all about profits and always has been but unfortunately the patients are the very people who will never profit from this ridiculous scheme.

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Cuts approved during heated council debate

CUTS OF £7.5 million over the next year have been approved by Dudley Council during a heated debate that saw the local authority accused of "targeting the vulnerable".

The budget was voted through at last week's full council meeting, when a freeze on council tax was also approved.

The council tax freeze will be achieved by using a £2.8 million government grant which was branded "a con" by opposition councillors who said the authority would have to make up the deficit in future years.

Funding for short breaks for children with disabilities will be cut by £50,000, while savings of £162,000 will be made in the Connexions careers advice service.

A total saving of £713,000 has been earmarked for the closure of residential homes.

Some £100,000 will be saved over the next year by reducing residential care for people with learning disabilities. Social care teams for elderly and disabled people will be cut from five to two to save £250,000.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif said: "These plans have targeted the vulnerable."

David Blood, Dudley's cabinet member for finance, told the meeting: "We have deferred some of our original proposals where we believe that further work is required so as to mitigate the impact on vulnerable people."

Seeking to grab £2m

A BID for European funding for a multi-million-pound glass museum in the Black Country is due to be submitted within days - but could take up to six months to go through.

A total of £2 million is being sought from the European Regional Development Fund for the development on the old Stuart Crystal site in Wordsley. The museum will house collections from across the region and is expected to attract thousands of visitors.

But bosses have warned the process could take up to six months

— and a planning application will not be made until the funding has been secured.

Site owners Complex Developments say they are confident the bid for cash will be successful and they hope the museum could be open to visitors by 2014.

Arsonists

The project was thrown into doubt last summer when arsonists gutted one of the Grade II listed former factories.

And vandal attacks since then have forced bosses to step up security.

The application for funding is being drawn up with Dudley

Council, as the museum is part of the authority's regeneration blueprint for the borough.

The British Glass Foundation, a charity set up to preserve the region's collections, is also helping to raise money for the project.

Plans have been in the pipeline for four years for the museum to be linked to the Red House Glass Cone, via a tunnel.

A housing estate development is also being planned for a neighbouring section of the site. Ian Harrabin, director of Complex Developments, said: "We are waiting for European funding before a planning application is made and we are about to submit the details."

Teddy bear up for bids

A 2ft TALL teddy bear will be auctioned off by the Mayor of Dudley for charity.

Councillor Michael Evans has listed the brown cuddly toy on Ebay to support his mayoral charities, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association and the leukaemia unit at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

As well as gaining the teddy, the winner will be invited to tea with the Mayor before having a photo taken. To place bids, visit www.dudley.gov.uk

Councillor Evans said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to help support these worthwhile causes."

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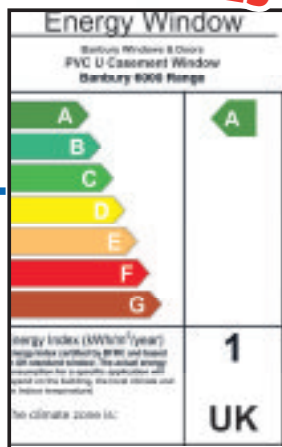
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thechronicle

Campaigners shocked at level of possible cuts

Amber takes on Annie



Amber Hughes as Annie with Holly Watson, Amelia Jones, Melissa Parsons, and Beth Henwood who are starring in the society's production A BLACK Country theatre group is staging the modern musical classic Annie.

Tab Operatic Society of Cradley Heath, will present the show from March 27 to 31.

The musical, which will be staged at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, stars 12-year-old Earls High School pupil Amber Hughes, from Halesowen, in the lead role of Annie.

Danny, a terrier from Telford, who has been playing the role of Sandy, Annie's companion for a decade and has appeared on stage alongside actors including Sue Pollard, will also be appearing.

Tickets are priced £11 and £12. A matinee will take place on March 31 at 2pm and tickets cost £10. Call 07722417962 or go to the box office at the civic hall from March 20.

CAMPAIGNERS battling to save a Kingswinford care home put their case to council and charity chiefs – telling them it would be tragic if the closure went ahead.

Relatives of residents at New Bradley Hall care home fear it is too late to save the home after the council revealed there would be funding cutbacks of more than £700,000 to residential homes in Dudley borough.

At a meeting last Wednesday campaigners rounded on Dudley Council officials demanding answers on the proposed cuts.

They claim the council has already made a decision on closing New Bradley Hall despite a public consultation being carried out – as £713,000 of cuts have been written into the council's budget for older people's services.

It comes as the future of the home was discussed at a meeting at Age Concern Sedgley's headquarters in Ettymore Road.

The first of five consultation events was held by charity Age UK Dudley which is looking at long-term options for the Compton Drive home.

Campaign action group member Phil Vane said: "What on earth is this farce of a consultation about because I was in total shock when I heard that £713,000 of cuts are going to be made in the closure of care homes."

Authority chiefs insist the figures are only provisional and they will listen to the public. Councillor Les Jones says new budget figures will be drawn up if it is decided to keep the home open. Dudley Council official Brendan Clifford, said during the meeting, said no firm decision had been taken yet.

£50,000 fund awarded

WYRE Forest District Council has been awarded funding of £50,000 to help ill and disabled residents adapt their homes.

The cash has been provided to allow the authority to take steps to help people remain in their homes or return there following a stay in hospital. It has been given from a fund announced by housing minister Grant Shapps in January.

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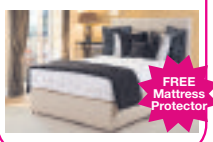
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A selection of vegetables from Webbs' seed catalogue 1939



Gold Medal award given to Webbs estates in 1914



Harvest festival display, location unknown, photo taken by Stretton Studios, High Street, Dudley

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Section	Crop	Quantity	Notes
C VEGETABLE CROPS	BRASSICAE	10 cwt	For home use
	BEANS	10 cwt	For home use
	PEAS	10 cwt	For home use
	SPINACH	10 cwt	For home use
A TUBERS AND ROOT CROPS	POTATOES	10 cwt	For home use
	TURNIPS	10 cwt	For home use
	SWEDGES	10 cwt	For home use
	BEETROOTS	10 cwt	For home use
B FRUIT AND OTHER GREEN CROPS	APPLES	10 cwt	For home use
	PEARS	10 cwt	For home use
	PLUMS	10 cwt	For home use
	CHERRIES	10 cwt	For home use

1940s garden catalogue Government crop rotation advice during the war – wartime allotment plan

When times are tough it's best to get dug in

WHEN the going gets tough it seems the tough get growing as a resurgence of enthusiasm for the self-sufficiency of the wartime years sweeps across the country.

Rising food prices has whetted the appetite for all things 'grow your own'. A survey by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners revealed 86,787 people were on allotment waiting lists last year.

Even 10 Downing Street and The White House have 'dug in' with the cultivation of vegetable gardens.

The trend for 'grow your own' has its roots firmly established in the 1900s. The 1914 Defence of the Realm Act gave the government wide ranging powers including the one to requisition land for the war effort.

Dig for Victory was the propaganda message on the Home Front



Fiona Carding of the Black Country Living Museum looks back to when wartime shortages meant it was time to grow your own food

during the Second World War and everyone was encouraged to develop green fingers for the war effort.

There was food rationing and the Ministry of Food issued advice about growing your own produce and eating healthily.

Small gardens, large gardens, sports grounds and parks were transformed into vegetable patches and by 1943 over a million tons of vegetables were being produced.

Clare Weston, curator of domestic and cultural life at the museum,

said: "The museum's Toll House, originally situated on Sedgley Road in Woodsetton, is a typical example of the self-sufficiency of the times."

"During the early 1900s the Hodgkiss family who lived there supplemented their income with additional food from the garden."

"Runner beans, cabbage, peas, red-currants, blackcurrants and gooseberries were all grown."

"Potatoes and apples, once harvested, were stored in boxes underneath the bed to preserve them until they were needed."

"Surplus rhubarb was offered for sale, alongside bundles of firewood at 6d per bundle and herbs were grown for cooking and remedies."

"Tastes may have changed over the last century with today's gardeners partial to a crop of mangetout rather than runner beans but the satisfaction of growing your own food remains the same."



Webbs' gold medal exhibition of vegetables in Birmingham 1938



A 1940s garden catalogue shows how to lift potatoes



A woman and child in a garden in Flavell Lane, Lower Gornal

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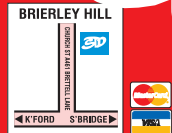
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thechronicle

Majority of schools in region are doing well

NEARLY two thirds of schools in the Black Country and Staffordshire inspected by Government watchdog Ofsted have been rated as good or outstanding.

The latest information from inspections carried out in schools show there were 844 visits by inspectors carried out across the region between October and December with 539 schools, or 63 per cent rated as outstanding or good.

In total 34 per cent of schools were providing satisfactory education while two per cent or a total of 17 schools were inadequate. Those schools were placed into special measures. Dudley had 17 schools, or 16 per cent, declared outstanding with 53 said to be good, 36 satisfactory and three listed as inadequate.

Pleased

Dudley Council's cabinet member for children's services Councillor Liz Walker said she was pleased with the figures.

"Our schools have once again done well and it shows the facilities we have in the borough are in good health," she said.

"Of course there is always room for improvement and I am confident that our schools will be able to achieve this."

Positive Ofsted outcomes recently in the region have included Perton Sandown First, which was graded as Outstanding and Alexandra High School, Tipton and Hately Heath Primary, West Bromwich, both officially ranked as good with ever-growing improvements.

Electoral list reminder

RESIDENTS in Dudley are being reminded not to miss out on their chance to vote in the local election May 3.

Dudley Council is urging people to ensure they are on the electoral register before the April 18 deadline.

Anyone who may not be able to get to their local polling station on election day can apply for a postal vote, or a proxy vote on 01384 814740.

Stuart's solid rock link



Stuart Reeves, whose great-grandparents lived in the house



Stuart's great-grandmother outside the house in 1935

STUART Reeves had always known two generations of his family once lived in some of Kinver's historic rock houses but he has now discovered the family link is even stronger.

His father William and grandfather Sydney lived in one of the cave dwellings, which date back to the 18th century, in the 1930s.

Thanks to new research by the National Trust, Stuart, 57, has found out his great-grandparents were also living in another of the houses at the same time. The occupiers of that house are listed as Mr and Mrs WH Reeves and Stuart believes his great-grandfather's name was also William, like his late father, who died 10 years ago. The family lived in the two caves from 1932 until 1937.

The house, where his father and grandparents lived, has been restored by the National Trust and is known as Martindale Caves.

Stuart, from Kinver, visited the rock houses when he discovered more about his family's connection with the dwellings.

The van driver, of Dark Lane, said: "My father was only young when he lived there so he never spoke about the rock houses."

Up to 11 families lived in the cave homes.

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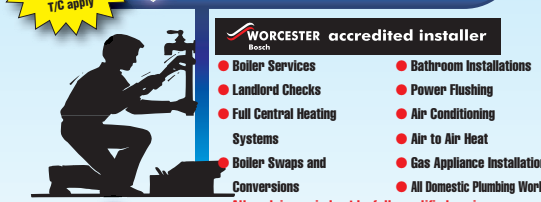


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thechronicle

Cancer survivor launches campaign



Checkout assistants Deena Taylor and Julie Goodridge with cancer survivor Susan Richards, from Sedgley, as they launch a new early diagnosis campaign

A GRANDMOTHER who survived cancer has helped launch a new campaign aimed at saving lives by highlighting the importance of early diagnosis.

Susan Richards, aged 56, from Sedgley, visited her GP in 2008 with stomach problems and was told she had cancer. Because of the early detection the cancer had not spread to other parts of her body and she was able to have surgery to prevent it returning. Her twin sister Edna, from Tipton, was diagnosed with lung cancer just weeks later but the disease was too advanced for surgery. She died on Christmas Day 2008, aged 52.

Mrs Richards was at the Tesco superstore at Burnt Tree Island last week for the launch of a new £10 million scheme. Tesco has named Cancer Research as its charity for the year and aims to fund 32 early diagnosis projects across the UK.

Improvement plans move a step closer

PLANS to build homes in Cradley have moved a step closer to reality after housing associations expressed an interest in developing the site.

Dudley Council wants to sell off land in Foredraft Street to fund improvement work in the town. Shops, apartments and a car park are set to be built on the A458, Windmill Hill, after plans were approved in August.

A report, which went before the council's regeneration, culture and adult education committee last week, said the authority was working with a number of housing associations which may want to develop the site.

It also said funding may be available from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to launch the project. The scheme forms part of a wider plan to improve Windmill Hill, which has been identified as a priority by the council.

Work will include road widening and improvements on car parks and footpaths.

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thechronicle

Artists and pupils create gates with a local angle

TWO artists - one of them a descendant of Lord of the Rings author JRR Tolkien - have worked with pupils to create a Dudley-themed school entrance.

The new gates and fence have been unveiled at Quarry Bank Primary School, High Street, after youngsters chipped in with their own drawings and designs. The project was brought to life by artist Tim Tolkien, great-nephew of the world-famous author, who has a studio in Cradley Heath. Mr Tolkien was first commissioned to create the fencing by Dudley Council in 2009 and has since worked with youngsters on their drawings and designs.

He re-interpreted the drawings for inclusion on the fence, which includes images of computers, mobile phones and pictures depicting the town's industrial past.

Former Quarry Bank pupil, 57-year-old cartoonist and author Geoff Tristram, then created a potted history of Dudley in Black Country dialect, which will run along the length of the gates.

Mr Tristram, of Eggington Road, Wollaston, designed the cover of UB40's debut album *Signing Off* and was recommended to help out by staff.

Pupils also pitched in with their ideas of what the town will look like in the future. Mr Tolkien said: "It has been a fantastic project and I am really pleased with how it has turned out."

"I went into the school to work with the children and collect their stories and pictures to be put into the piece. I have also been delighted to work with Geoff."

New sports club opens

CHILDREN and young people with disabilities can join a new free sports club in Halesowen. Adapted sports will be run at the weekly inclusive sessions, being held at Huntingtree Park from noon on Sundays. Inclusive Club includes, rounders, table tennis, boccia, cricket and indoor curling. Call 07557323173.



Artists Tim Tolkien, below, and Geoff Tristram, with the new gates they have collaborated on outside Quarry Bank Junior School

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GPlan nest of tables in Cherry finish ~~£529~~ **£228**

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Baker Flagstone table and 6 chairs ~~£2019~~ **£867**

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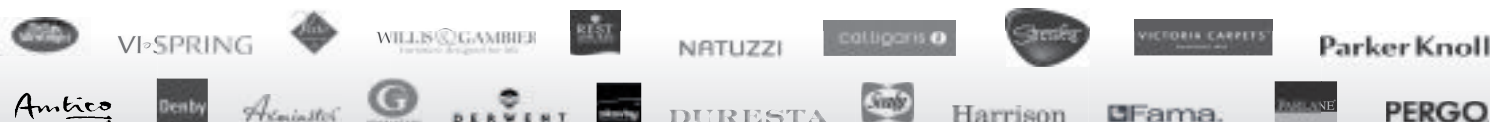
Slumberland Contour 800 double drawer divan ~~£899~~ **£384**

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Scrap dealer was caught stealing Asda trolleys

A SCRAP dealer was caught by police stealing supermarket and milk trolleys worth close to £400, a court heard.

Gary Fletcher, aged 39, had stopped at traffic lights at the foot of Castle Hill, near The Station Hotel, Dudley, when officers stopped him. Police made him drive to a car park on Castlegate Park so they could examine the contents of the vehicle. Inside his van were four shopping trolleys from Asda in Brierley Hill and two Dairy Crest milk trolleys.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard the haul was worth £380 to the father of seven.

Fletcher, of Leys Road, Brockmoor, pleaded guilty to a charge of theft on January 23 at a hearing last week.

Mrs Maxine Jarrouse-Jones, prosecuting, said Fletcher had claimed to police that the trolleys had been left in a skip in Adelaide Street near the Asda supermarket. She added the trolleys had been clearly marked as belonging to the two firms.

"The defendant does state he believed they were abandoned but did not make any attempt to contact Asda or Dairy Crest," Mrs Jarrouse-Jones said.

Mr Ian Windridge, defending, said his client was working legitimately as a scrap dealer earning around £100 a week.

"He fully accepts he was driving the van with the trolleys inside," he said. "He has been working as a legitimate scrap dealer in the area - he asks people if he can take their metal to be sold." Chairman of the bench, Mr Alan Reeves, ordered him to serve a two-year conditional discharge with £85 costs.

Mother of a tea party



Alison Hyatt invites people to a Mother's Day tea at Haden Hill House

PEOPLE are being invited to give their mothers a treat by tucking into tea and home-made cakes at a Cradley Heath beauty spot this month.

The traditional afternoon tea is being held on Mother's Day at Haden Hill House Museum.

The Victorian gentleman's residence in Barrs Road, will host the

event on March 18 between 3pm and 5pm. Jane Hanney, museum services manager at Sandwell Museum Service, said: "Those who come along are in for a treat with some lovely cakes, snacks and treats." Booking is essential. Afternoon tea is £7 per person and is open to adults and older children only. To book call 01384 569 444.

Boy, 10, rescued from fall

A 10-YEAR-OLD boy had to be rescued after falling part way down a steep embankment in Dudley. Ambulance crews were called to Knowle Hill Road, Netherton to find the youngster stranded halfway down the incline. Fire crews from Brierley Hill were called in to help rescue the youngster, who had suffered injuries to his back and leg. The youngster was taken to hospital.

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CLUB NEWS

Historian gives talk on burials

MY TIME OVER 50s

AT THE February meeting the members and visitors met to hear well-known historian Ian Bott talk about Black Country graveyards.

Mr Bott explained that wealthy benefactors and members of holy orders were buried in churches, with the rest of the population buried in the churchyard.

Until the 19th century, when buried in the churchyard only a wooden cross would mark the grave.

There were so many burials in the churchyards that over the centuries the land level rose, leading to drainage problems, so cemeteries came into being.

Mr Bott used his slides to show how historical information can be gleaned by walking in graveyards and cemeteries, such as changes in fashion, deaths through factory and mining tragedies recorded on headstones and the beautiful examples of the stonemason's art.

Mr Bott's talk kept his audience amused and entertained, but also gave them insight into the origins of customs surrounding the death of loved ones.

My Time Over Fifties meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Amblecote Room in Stourbridge Town Hall.

On March 28, David Baker will be talking about the Black Country Museum.

Fundraising race night is a winner



Sue Myatt and Lion President Doug Smith with a cheque for St Giles Hospice

CANNOCK LIONS

FEBRUARY was a great month for Cannock Lions, which began with a bag pack at Sainsbury's.

The club would like to thank the store and everyone that donated. On the same day the club held a fantastic race night at the Constitutional Club in Heath Hayes.

It was immediately a sell-

out and the total raised from the two events was more than £1,00.

Donations were made to Purple Teardrop, a Cannock Soroptimists project and to Sue Myatt who had her head shaved to raise funds for St

Giles Hospice. Helping a Newlife jewellery sale made another £818 for them.

February was also the month of the District Music competition in Oswestry and Jonathon Ellse from Chase Academy School took part playing the cello.

For more on the club, see its Facebook page or website or call 0845 8334967.

A fun time at daisy drive

HAWNE E TOWNSWOMEN

THE chairman welcomed 42 members to the February meeting.

As this evening was a daisy drive, tables of four were arranged.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed and there were no matters arising.

Thank you letters were received from several members for the excellent

Christmas party. The report from the federation was about several forthcoming events.

Nine tickets were ordered for the AGM, Birmingham in June

The daisy drive was arranged by Joyce Graves and

it was a fun evening. It helped the members to mix as the highest score moved onto the next table.

A cup of tea was enjoyed, the sales table and book stall were stocked and the raffle was drawn.

The next meeting is the AGM on March 19 when a cheque will be given to a representative from Macular Degeneration.

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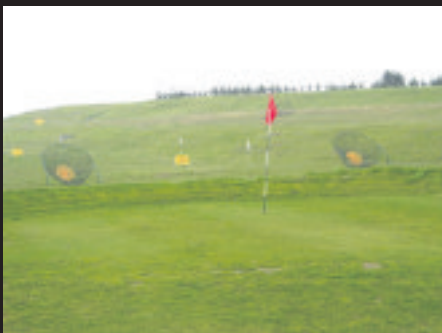
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£10m revamp launched for borough tourist sites

A MULTI-MILLION pound project which will revamp Dudley's biggest tourist attractions and see a £6 million archives centre built has been launched.

The scheme will include a new joint entrance for the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo.

Building work will start next month on the archives centre, based on the site of the former Royal Brierley Crystal factory in Tipton Road, after ground work has been carried out in the coming weeks.

At the same time a new road will be built between the museum and zoo as part of a £10m revamp that will also include a new visitor centre and car park.

Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government, was due to formally break the ground during the launch event last week before being given a tour of the sites.

Councillor Angus Adams, Dudley Council's cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This is the start of the project, when it all comes together and we put spade in soil for the first time."

"We are absolutely delighted that work is due to start on the regeneration of Castle Hill that will attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year."

It is hoped the centre, which will house Dudley's archives dating back to the 12th century, will be completed by summer 2013.

The building will also have a local history library, a conservation studio, a lecture theatre and conference rooms.

Gospel truth for church

PARISHIONERS from Kidderminster have set themselves the task of learning a chapter from St Mark's Gospel off by heart.

St Mary's and St Barnabas churches set the challenge for Lent.

The first performance takes place at St Oswald's church on March 18 and the second half at Holy Trinity Church Trimpley the following week.

Plotting for success



Getting growing are Birchen Coppice Primary School pupils, front Kylie Smith, Gareth Evans, Brian Wilkes, with back Demi-Lee Foster, Chloe Carter, Bradley Davies, Patryk Pikor and Jordan Care

GREEN-FINGERED pupils at a Kidderminster school are helping to transform a piece of grass land into an allotment garden.

A group of youngsters from Birchen Coppice Primary School are spending an afternoon a week working on the plot.

The pupils, aged six to 11, visited the Hodgehill Farm Shop to get

some expert advice on the different vegetables they could grow.

The youngsters had a go at planting broad beans in seed trays and potatoes in buckets.

Headteacher Rachel Turner said: "We have visitors booked in to help us design our plot, plant the seeds and to make sure we look after our plants properly."



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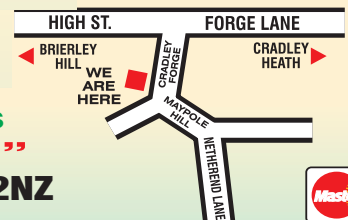


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Themed

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Themed activities take place all year round at the attraction and later in April visitors can learn about the history and heritage associated with the famous Cadbury brand by visiting the attraction during its Heritage Weekend.

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WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387013

ELAINE kind, romantic, loving 43, seeks genuine male for relationship. Telford. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 374845

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386893 ☎

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for no strings fun times only. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363277 ☎

39YR old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386887 ☎

ANGIE 36, likes cosy nights in/out, country walks, sensitive, caring, loyal, spiritual, seeks male to share life with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386885 ☎

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded discreet decent male who can accommodate for adult fun friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373013 ☎

STACEY young sensual 20yr old looking for fun times. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382091 ☎

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up, 30-60. AKA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364311 ☎

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 360317 ☎

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378463 ☎

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 377432 ☎

RACHAEL 49yrs young slim, caring, GSOH and fun loving, WLTm similar male with sincere for mutual discreet companionship, perhaps more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381343 ☎

LYNN 37 single mum, petite slim and very pretty, seeking caring funny guy to be with and become my Mr Wonderful. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386627 ☎

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Discretion expected/assured. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 379535 ☎

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 11ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 364651 ☎

SHARON 37, social, WLTm male who likes good conversation, theatre, keeping fit and most of all who will appreciate a real woman. ACA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381345 ☎

LAURA 36, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384171

SHELLEY attractive 46, brunette, bubbly, outgoing, bored, seeks male, 45-51 for discreet fun and friendship. Must be able to accommodate. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 379153 ☎

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386169 ☎

WIDOW 69yrs, 70, kind, caring, N/S, seeks male for friendship, relationship, holidays and outings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 303133

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385309

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 339373 ☎

TRISHA 50, attractive, black, outgoing, thoughtful, caring, understanding, likes holidays, seeks similar loving gent. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383073

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383325 ☎

SINGLE mum, 36, 2 children, seeks fun loving male with GSOH. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382595 ☎

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 361076 ☎

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTm tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375825 ☎

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380591 ☎

RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, seeks sensitive, funny gent for friendship, companionship, hopefully relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375929 ☎

LILLY 36, black, seeks white male for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378907 ☎

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378295 ☎

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 327573 ☎

TINA 38 social outgoing nurse, OHAC, no ties, looking for mature male for nights in/out, romance, roll play and possible ltr. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386633 ☎

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DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 327573 ☎

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376165 ☎

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, busty, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376115 ☎

YOUNG at heart 65yr old lady, likes pub lunches, days out, seeks sincere gent for friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376079

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/batchelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387204

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine white male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 367021 ☎

WIDOWED lady 70's, likes countryside, travel, seaside, seeks nice gent to spend time with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 362993

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384852 ☎

SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 180587

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 304135 ☎

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380918 ☎

FEMININE caring, young, mid 60's N/S woman, varied interests, seeks genuine, loyal male of similar age to share togetherness and LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 321931 ☎

FEMALE size 14, brown hair/eyes, likes cinema, swimming, meals out, seeks male for chats, dates, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386255 ☎

ALEX from Derby seeks tall, dark handsome stranger or an Irish guy. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 369235

CONFIDENT busty, curly, sexy chick, seeks male, 38 plus, 6ft plus, stocky build, rugby player to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368073

CHRISTIAN lady 63, widow, thoughtful, caring, honest, seeks Christian male, any age for friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384443 ☎

TRACEY 36, blonde hair, green eyes, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, day trips, seeks fun, attractive male, 36-44 to put the smile back on my face. Must love children. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 372277 ☎

FEMALE early 60's, 5ft 7ins, loyal, caring, seeks sincere gent, 60-70 for friendship. ACA. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 203848

MICHELLE 46, outgoing, confident, enjoy socialising, seeks male, 45-51 for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388860

ATTRACTIVE lady, late 40's, seeks much younger man for fun times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384820 ☎

JACKIE 44, Capricorn, 5ft 5ins, cuddly, dark hair, green eyes, carer, likes reading, gym, nights out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376253

JEAN 75, 5ft 2ins, seeks nice male for friendship and happy times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 379989 ☎

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GLEN 5ft 7ins, fair hair, medium build, outgoing, fun loving, sincere, genuine, lives on a small holding, seeks similar female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 390066

MALE seeking likeminded female, likes dancing, 60's music and runs out on Mod scooter. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387297 ☎

ACTIVE 31yr old, slim, dark hair, loves life, many interests seeks nice female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 352753 ☎

STEVE shy, likes football, cinema, pubs, wine, holidays, seeking caring female to share life with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387153 ☎

KARL new to area, fit 57, happy go lucky, likes bikes, music, wants to make someone special happy. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389560 ☎

40YR old male, likes pubs, bars, seeks sexy female for fun times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384325 ☎

MALE 36, likes pubs, clubs, seeks female for friendship/relationship. Carol please leave your mobile number again. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 263938

26YR old male, seeks female, 18-30 for fun times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389972 ☎

BLACK male, 42, 5ft 7ins, average build, GSOH, seeks nice looking, slim-medium build female, 30-40 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386347

MATURE company director, early 60's, N/S, animal lover, GSOH, enjoys countryside, seeks genuine female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 208545 ☎

DARK haired male, slim, blue eyes, fit, likes pubs, clubs, weekends away, seeks female, age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385087 ☎

ROBERT slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 312443

MALE 72, N/S, active, energetic, likes caravans, days out, seeks likeminded lady. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387089

MALE 46, medium build, short hair, N/S, lonely, no ties, hurt in past, varied interests, sports, DIY, seeks female, 21-65. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385783

MALE 45, 5ft 7ins, medium build, short hair, N/S, no ties, honest, likes sports, cinema, countryside, DIY, seeks female, 20-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 332453

ATTRACTIVE kind guy 48, seeking open-minded lady for friendship and more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387009 ☎

PAUL 63, tall, attractive, fit, normal, lonely, likes DIY, travel, nights out, seeks female to care for and turn life around. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386417 ☎

DANIEL 30, brown hair/eyes, slim, good looking, likes nights out, fun, seeks female, 20-35 for good times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388754 ☎

51YR old tall, slim-medium build, fit, healthy, energetic male, works from home, seeks sexy lady for fun times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385867

FRIENDLY 34yr old white guy looking for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389990 ☎

PAUL 62, 5ft 3ins, widower, caring, affectionate, trendy, seeks honest female with good personality, slim, dark hair, 50-60 to share friendship with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384121 ☎

MALE seeks young lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386911

MARK 49, affectionate, easygoing, caring, fun loving, seeking similar female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 373223

33YR old male, looking for nice voluptuous lady for fun and frolics. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380829

JAMES 48, slim, attractive, get up and go attitude, seeks lady for companionship, hopefully more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 389766

ADRIAN genuine, caring, honest, 41, many interests, seeks female. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387392 ☎

IAN 61, seeks attractive younger lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386639

48YR old male, seeks female, 30-48, size/looks unimportant for LTR. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386835 ☎

MATURE male, seeks female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363253

EARLY 50's male, seeks tactile female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 351923

60'S MA male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 381307

BRIAN 60 single Walsall male, very sensual, WLTm local lady having similar needs, hopefully slim-medium build. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 366629

DERBY male, 38, 5ft 10ins, fit, likes gym, nights out, seeks kind, thoughtful female, 30-35. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No:

Saturday TV

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Choice

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital



HOW GOD MADE THE ENGLISH

BBC2, 8pm

Despite the overly jingoistic title of this new, three-part documentary, it's actually a rather serious series that aims to explore what it means to be English, and what has shaped English identity. And while that may leave our Scottish, Irish and Welsh cousins feeling a tad left out, it may offer them a unique opportunity to find out what makes the English tick – and from that, a way of measuring how similar or different the home nations are. What's also interesting is that the programme is by no means a celebratory pat on the back for the English everywhere – in fact, in some cases, it's quite the opposite.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Focus. **11.30** Football. **12.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **12.10** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **4.45** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Ireland (Kick-off 5.00pm).

6.55 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

7.10 Let's Dance for Sport Relief. The final of the charity dance contest, with a line-up including Miles Jupp, Laurie and Tameka, and Eddie 'the Eagle' Edwards, and Omid Djalili. Last in the series.

8.45 The National Lottery: It To Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to win £100,000. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Jenni Falconer.

9.35 Casualty. Part three of three. Stevie is convinced Anton was responsible for Jade's rape, despite his protestations of innocence, and the violent gang conflict comes to a climax in the ED.

10.25 BBC News: Weather. Match of the Day. Including highlights of Fulham v Swansea City; National Lottery Update.

11.45 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.00** Formula 1: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.15** Film: Cromwell. (1970) Historical drama, starring Richard Harris and Alec Guinness. **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Flog It!

6.30 Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea's finest accidentally fire all their ammunition at a passing aircraft, to Captain Mainwaring's mortification. (R)

7.00 The Story of Light Entertainment. Stephen Fry charts the rise in profile of comedians, from their humble beginnings as low-ranking variety performers to the high-earning superstars of today. (R)

8.00 How God Made the English. New series. Diarmaid MacCulloch explores what it means to be English, beginning with the notion that the English think themselves better than others.

9.00 Have I Got News for You. Satirical quiz. (R)

9.30 Arena: The Dreams of William Golding. Profile of the Lord of the Flies writer, as told through his diaries, and the dreams he recorded that reveal his private obsessions and insecurities.

11.00 FILM: Lord of the Flies. (1963) Drama, starring James Aubrey and Tom Chapin.

12.30 The Sarah Millican Television Programme. (R) **1.00** Film: Besieged. (1998) Drama, with Thandie Newton. **2.30** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** This Morning: Saturday. **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Live FA Cup Football. Everton v Sunderland (Kick-off 12.45pm). **3.00** Film: Death on the Nile. (1978) Agatha Christie mystery, with Peter Ustinov. **5.35** Regional News: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

6.00 All Star Family Fortunes. Singer Sophie Ellis-Bextor and broadcaster Angela Rippon team up with their relatives in a bid to win a large cash prize for charity.

7.00 New You've Been Framed! Mums' unusual antics.

7.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp. Comic review of the week's small-screen highlights.

8.00 Take Me Out. A scuba-diving instructor, a media salesman, a hair consultant and a fish merchant try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates. Paddy McGuinness hosts.

9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Sarah Milligan and Sugar Ray Leonard.

10.15 ITV News: Weather. **10.30** FA Cup Highlights. Action from the first two matches in the sixth round.

11.30 The Cube. First-ever edition of the game show. (R)

12.25 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.00** Plain Sight. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.05** Road to London. **6.35** Paralympics Extra. The different varieties of football played at the Games. (R) **7.30** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Koko Pop. **9.25** T4: Real Stories: Eminem. (R) **10.25** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.55** T4: Charlie's Angels. **11.50** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Mandip Sehmi – Part Two. (R) **4.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.55** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.25 Come Dine with Me. Paula Skelton hosts the final evening in Bury. (R)

6.55 Channel 4 News. **7.25** 4thought.tv. The concept of saints.

7.30 River Cottage Veg. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall tries living as a vegetarian. (R)

8.30 Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. The importance of honour and reputation in traveller communities, featuring Priscilla, who ran away with a boy at the age of 16. (R)

9.30 The Celebrity Bank Job. Famous faces compete in the game show. Last in the series.

10.30 FILM: Copcat. (1995) Thriller, starring Sigourney Weaver.

12.55 Film: Sex Drive. (2008) Premiere. Comedy, starring Josh Zuckerman. **2.45** No, No, No. (R) **2.50** Film: The Death of Mr Lazarescu. (2005) Comedy drama, starring Ioan Fiscuteanu. **5.25** Reaper. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.15** Emergency Bikers. (R) **11.20** Film: The Green Berets. (1968) Vietnam War adventure, starring John Wayne. **2.05** Film: Bronco Billy. (1980) Comedy Western, starring Clint Eastwood. **4.20** Film: RV: Runaway Vacation. (2006) Family comedy, starring Robin Williams.

6.20 5 News Weekend. **6.25** NCIS. Gibbs is forced to work with Trent Kort. (R)

7.15 NCIS. An army scientist goes missing, so Abby is asked to temporarily replace him on a top-secret research project – but Gibbs later learns her life could be in danger. (R)

8.05 NCIS. Abby becomes personally involved in the case of a murdered naval scientist and makes a breakthrough when she decodes some of the markings covering the body. (R)

9.00 CSI: NY. Two men are suspected of killing a judge because they received harsh sentences for minor offences, while Lindsay tries to convict the alleged serial rapist who eluded Danville.

10.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Salva from a tiger is discovered on a murdered model.

10.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R)

11.50 Inside Hollywood. **12.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** Great Scientists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2 **2.45** American Idol **5.40** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **7.25** Film: Kangaroo Jack (2003). Comedy, starring Jerry O'Connell and Anthony Anderson. **9.15** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **11.15** Film: Rumor Has It (2005). Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Aniston and Kevin Costner.

ITV3 **2.55** Lewis **11.00** Those Who Kill

ITV4 **1.30** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **4.20** Film: Red River (1948) **7.00** Whisker Wars **8.00** The Sweeney **9.00** Film: Coogan's Bluff (1968). Crime drama, with Clint Eastwood. **11.00** Film: Casino (1995). Thriller, starring Robert De Niro.

BBC THREE **7.00** Doctor Who **8.15** Top Gear **9.15** Film: Confessions of a Shopaholic (2009). Comedy, starring Isla Fisher and Hugh Dancy. **10.55** Family Guy **11.40** American Dad!

BBC FOUR **7.00** Lost Cities of the Ancients **8.00** Monty Don's Italian Gardens **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.35** Top of the Pops: 1977 **11.10** Film: Storyville: Knuckle – Bare Fist Fighting (2011). Documentary about bare-knuckle boxing.

E4 **1.30** Hollyoaks **4.05** Perfect Couples **4.35** Scrubs **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.30** Happy Endings **9.00** Film: Hitman (2007). Action thriller, starring Timothy Olyphant and Dougray Scott. **10.50** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** The Cleveland Show

FILM4 **3.05** Toys (1992) **5.25** Hocus Pocus (1993) **7.20** Hot Shots! Part Deux (1993). Spoof action movie sequel, starring Charlie Sheen. **9.00** Dorian Gray (2009). Period horror, starring Ben Barnes. **11.10** Battle Royale (2000)

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Sunday TV

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Choice

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital



ANTIQUES ROADSHOW BBC1, 8pm

It can be difficult to distinguish between a repeat and a new episode of Antiques Roadshow as all the main attractions are always on the ancient side and the format of the show hasn't changed for decades. Some of the antique experts clearly spend their free time in suspended animation because they don't appear to have aged very much in the past 20 years. From the gorgeous locations to the jaunty theme music, there's nothing to dislike about this British institution which has become a hit all over the world. Tonight, Fiona Bruce heads to the Yorkshire Museum in York, where items of interest include a spy's camera, a quilt and a paperweight.

6.00 Breakfast. **7.55** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** Sunday Politics. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. **1.30** A Question of Sport. (R) **2.00** Formula 1: Australian Grand Prix. **4.00** Regional Programmes. **5.00** Liffeline. **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Land Girls. (R)

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker, Julia Bradbury and Ellie Harrison explore the New Forest, while John Craven heads to Scotland to investigate deer culling.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team head to the Yorkshire Museum in York, where items of interest include a spy's camera, a quilt and a paperweight.

9.00 Upstairs Downstairs. Mr Pritchard finds romance at the annual servants' ball, prompting him to wonder if there is more to life than service, while Hallam and Persie continue their dangerous affair.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 FILM: War of the Worlds. (2005) Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, with Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning and Justin Chatwin.

12.10 Weatherview. **12.15** Sign Zone: Film 2012 with Claudia Winkelman. (R) **12.55** David Walliams' Big Swim: A Sport Relief Special. (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** The Last Explorers. (R) **3.55** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.30** EastEnders. **2.20** Film: The Taming of the Shrew. (1967) Shakespeare comedy, starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. **4.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.20** Flog It!

6.20 FILM: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. (2005) An ordinary man is hurled into an intergalactic adventure when the Earth is destroyed to make way for a hyperspace bypass. Sci-fi comedy, with Martin Freeman.

8.00 Top Gear. Compilation episode featuring highlights from the show's 17th and 18th series, in which Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May got up to more motoring mischief.

9.00 Orbit: Earth's Extraordinary Journey. Kate Humble and Helen Czerski follow the earth's journey around the sun from the March equinox to the end of June. Last in the series.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Wolverhampton Wanderers v Manchester United.

11.00 Formula 1: Australian Grand Prix. Jake Humphrey introduces action from the opening race of the season at Albert Park, Melbourne, where Sebastian Vettel was successful last year. (R)

1.00 Rugby Union: Six Nations Highlights. **1.45** BBC News.

6.00 CITV: Mini City. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** FA Cup Highlights. (R) **10.30** May the Best House Win. (R) **11.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.40** Film: Columbo: Murder in Malibu. (1990) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.30** Live FA Cup Football. Liverpool v Stoke City (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.15 Regional News; Weather.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Planet's Funniest Animals. Humorous clips. (R)

7.00 Dancing on Ice. Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley host the semi-final, where the remaining four celebrities battle it out for a place in next week's final. The results can be seen at 9.30pm.

8.30 Live Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Mother's Day Special. Chris Tarrant celebrates Mother's Day by inviting celebrities to team up with their mums for charity, with half of the night's winnings going to one lucky viewer.

9.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. The lowest-scoring couples compete.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Cops with Cameras. Following officers across the UK. (R)

11.15 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. The final at Sixways in Worcester.

12.10 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.35** River Monsters. (R) **3.25** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.30** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: David Smith – Part Two. The boccia player reflects on competing at an elite level. (R) **7.35** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. (R) **8.05** Real Stories: Jennifer Lopez. (R) **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.20** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.35** The Simpsons. (R) **1.10** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.40** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.10** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.40** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.10** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.40** Deal or No Deal. **4.40** Time Team. **5.40** Film: The Simpsons Movie. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Dan Castellaneta.

7.25 Channel 4 News.

7.55 4thought.tv. A member of the public discusses saints.

8.00 The Falklands' Most Daring Raid. The RAF's bombing of Port Stanley's runway in 1982.

9.00 Homeland. Estes wants Brody to help interrogate the lone surviving terrorist from the compound where he was held captive, leading Carrie to grow more suspicious of the marine.

10.05 FILM: How to Lose Friends & Alienate People. (2008) Comedy, starring Simon Pegg and Kirsten Dunst.

12.20 Film: Dribbit Taylor. (2008) Premiere. Comedy, starring Owen Wilson. **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.30** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.35** 90210. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igam Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Grey's Anatomy. (R) **10.55** Stansted: The Inside Story. (R) **11.55** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.55** Film: Brave Warrior. (1952) **2.20** Film: Stuart Little 3: Call of the Wild. (2005) Children's animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Michael J. Fox. **3.50** Film: The Tigger Movie. (2000) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Jim Cummings. **5.15** 5 News. **5.20** Film: The Legend of Zorro. (2005) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Antonio Banderas.

7.45 FILM: I, Robot. (2004) Sci-fi thriller, starring Will Smith.

10.00 FILM: Rambo. (2008) Action sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone.

11.40 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R)

12.40 The World of Stupid Criminals. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.50** County Secrets. (R) **4.05** UEFA Europa League Highlights. **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
3.00 Britain's Got Talent: Best and Worst **1.40** Britain's Got Talent: Best and Worst **2.50** Film: The NeverEnding Story (1984) **6.55** Film: Flipper (1996) Adventure, starring Elijah Wood. **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) Comedy sequel, starring Sandra Bullock.

ITV3
11.00 Cracker

ITV4
2.20 Film: Red River (1948) **5.00** Film: The Alamo (1960) Western, directed by and starring John Wayne. **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Game (1997) Thriller, starring Michael Douglas. **11.35** Film: A Clockwork Orange (1971) Drama, starring Malcolm McDowell and Warren Clarke.

BBC THREE
7.00 The Secrets of Everything **7.30** Let's Dance for Sport Relief **9.00** Being Human **10.00** Don't Tell the Bride: Mother's Day Special **11.00** Pramface **11.30** Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 Songwriters' Circle: English Folk **8.00** Songs of Ireland **9.00** Film: Round Ireland with a Fridge (2010) Premiere. Comedy, starring Tony Hawks and Valerie O'Connor. **10.30** Film: The Shore (2011) Oscar-winning short drama, with Ciaran Hinds and Conleth Hill. **11.00** She Wolves: England's Early Queens

E4
4.25 Samantha Who? **4.55** Being Erica **5.55** 90210 **6.55** Film: Sister Act (1992) Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg and Harvey Keitel. **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Skins

FILM4
2.55 Because of Winn-Dixie (2005) **5.00** Memoirs of an Invisible Man (1992) **6.55** Fame (2009) Musical remake, starring Kay Panabaker. **9.00** Nine to Five (1980) Comedy, starring Dolly Parton and Jane Fonda. **11.10** Series 7: The Contenders (2001)

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Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Crime and Punishment. 10.00 Horned Rider the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 The Sheriffs Are Coming. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. 3.30 Regional News. 3.45 The Big Bang Theory. Weather. 4.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 Sport Relief 2012. Gary Lineker, Claudia Winkleman, Davina McCall and Dermot O'Leary present the fundraiser, featuring music, sketches and special editions of many of our favourite BBC News. 10.25 Regional News. Weather. 10.35 Sport Relief 2012. 1.30 Weatherwise. 1.35 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 Cbeebies. 7.30 CBC News. 8.00 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News.
BBC3 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 My Life in Books. (R) 1.30 Living Dangerously. (R) 2.15 Weekend Link. 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Film *Ten of the Best*. 4.00 The Big Bang Theory. 4.30 The Simpsons. 5.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Britain's First Top Album. 7.00 Coast. 7.30 Mastermind. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don links his newly acquired garden with the TV show. 9.00 The Malayan pastor travels to the Scottish birthplace of David Livingstone. 10.00 Sport Relief 2012. 10.30 The Inbetweeners. 11.00 The Big Bang Theory.
BBC4 12.00 Weather. 1.30 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 12.00 Film: The Visitor. (2007) Comedy drama, starring Richard Jenkins. 1.35 Film: *Criminal Minded*. Premiere. Drama, starring Ewan McGregor. 2.15 Close.

KV1 6.00 Daybreak, 6.30 Lorraine, 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show, 10.30 This Morning.
12.30 Loose Women, 1.30 ITV News; Weather, 1.55 Regional News; Weather, 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal, 2.30 The Alan Titchmarsh Show, 3.59 Regional News; Weather, 4.00 Widsomes Murders, 4.35 F.R.I.E.N.D.S., 5.00 The Chase, 6.00 Newsnight, 6.30 ITV News; Weather, 7.00 Emmerdale, 7.30 Coronation Street, 8.30 Safari Vet School, 8.30 Coronation Street, 9.00 Benidorm, 10.00 ITV News; Weather, 10.30 Newsnight, 11.00 Newsnight, 11.30 Newsnight, 11.55 Film: *American Beauty*, 1990 Vietnam War comedy adventure, with Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr. 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines, 2.40 Film: Jaws, 1975 Steven Spielberg's thriller starring Roy Scheider, 4.45 ITV Nightscreen, 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 **6.10** The Hoobs. **R** 6.35 The Hoobs. **R** 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** According to Jim. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. **R** 8.25 Frasier. **R** 9.00 Undercover Boss USA. **R** 10.00 The Renovation. **10.30** The Restaurant. **11.00** The Restaurant. **11.30** Channel 4 News Midday Summary. **12.05** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. **12.35** How to Cook Like Heston. **R** 1.05 Film: Drums Along the Mohawk. **(2009)** John Ford's horse-drawn western. **1.35** The Fondas. **3.05** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Mandip Sehmi – Part Two. **R** 3.10 Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Come Dine with Me. **5.30** Four in a Row. **6.00** The Simpsons. **R** 6.30 Four in a Row. **7.00** Channel 4 News Tonight. **7.30** Come Dine with Me. **Four amateur cooks from Wolverhampton compete. 9.00** Film: Sahara. **(2005)** Adventure, starring Matthew McConaughey. **9.30** Film: Lulu. **10.00** Napoleon Dynamite. **(2004)** Comedy, starring John Heder. **2.10** Random Acts. **2.15** My Name Is Earl. **R** 3.05 Hung. **R** 4.00 Reaper. **R** 4.05 90210.

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake 9.15 The Wright Stuff, 11.10 LIVE with Gabby, 12.10 5 News Lunchline, 12.15 Emergency Callers, 1.10 5 Home, 2.00 5 News, 3.15 NCIS, (R) 3.15 Film: Ice Twisters, (2009) Premier. Sci-fi thriller, starring Mark Moses, 5.00 5 News at 5, 5.30 Neighbours, (R) 6.00 Home and Away, (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30, 7.00 The Secret Life of the American Teenager, 5.00 5 News Update, 8.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers, 5 News at 9, 9.00 The Mentalist, Jane tries to prove a woman is innocent of murder, 10.00 Castle, 11.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent, (R) 11.55 Inside Hollywood, (R) 12.00 5 News at Midnight, 5.00 5 News Update, 6.00 Wildlife SOS, (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge, (R)

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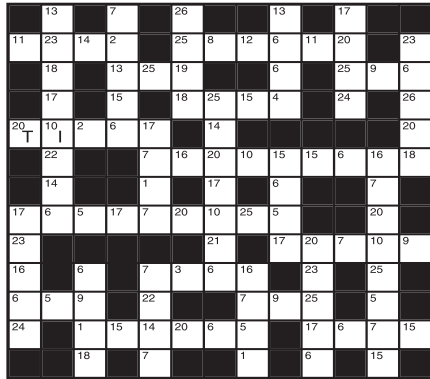
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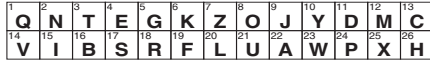
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Answer the medium hopes to get at a seance? (8,5)
8. Cat's coat in far from smooth condition (8)
9. Five hundred and one over (4)
10. Violent outcome from Recife (6)
12. Dismays when father returns with friends (6)
14. A ship, it's about to help (6)
16. Part of a revolver to develop (6)
18. Help a performer likes to get (4)
20. Arrived at a certain conclusion (4,4)
22. Presumably he hopes his achievements won't always be minor (6,7)

Down

1. Where you might finish if you take flight (8)
2. Provisionally he's a supplier (6)
3. Turn up before it erupts (4)
4. Recommend a lawyer (8)
5. Supported, yet not allowed to proceed (4,2)
6. Left in the cooler, it may be jammed (4)
11. Reckon tea-time's been altered (8)
13. Purchase some clever agencies (8)
15. This club is much patronised by gymnasts (6)
17. Supporting a football team, perhaps, and not in an illegal position (2,4)
19. She's spotted following a band (4)
21. Rush job for a dressmaker (4)

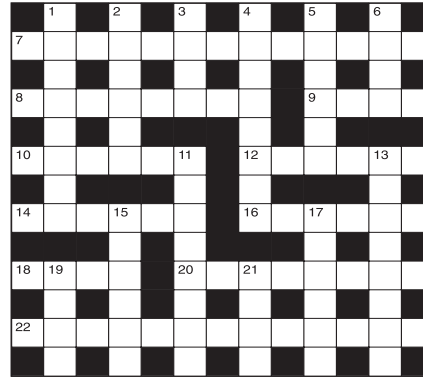
Quick Clues:

Across

7. Nursery tale character (3,6,4)
8. Acknowledged (8)
9. Sell (4)
10. Fondle (6)
12. Scold (6)
14. Lethargy (6)
16. Captivate (6)
18. Popular idol (4)
20. Recall (8)
22. Impartial (13)

Down

1. Inclination (8)
2. Mourn (6)
3. Revise (4)
4. Uneatable (8)
5. Tremble (6)
6. Robe (4)
11. Astound (8)
13. Burlesque (8)
15. Instigate (6)
17. Drive mad (6)
19. Way out (4)
21. Chief (4)



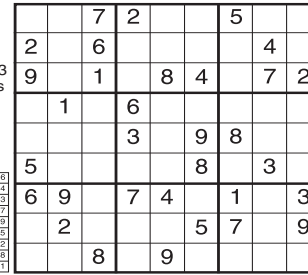
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Hike; 8 Calamitous; 9 Senorita; 10 Leer; 12 Re-lent; 14 Totals; 15 String; 17 Assign; 18 Idea; 19 Manx cats; 21 No thank you; 22 Base. Down: 2 Interested; 3 Echo; 4 Plait; 5 Impart; 6 Athletes; 7 Tsar; 11 Enlightens; 13 Epitaphs; 16 Gemini; 17 Annoys; 18 Inns; 20 Club. QUICK - Across: 1 Cast; 8 Indulgence; 9 Sidelong; 10 Down; 12 Burden; 14 Treble; 15 Vassal; 17 Dispel; 18 Zero; 19 Quadrant; 21 Uneasiness; 22 Test. Down: 2 Articulate; 3 Tire; 4 Adjoin; 5 Blight; 6 Headless; 7 Mean; 11 Wilderness; 13 Disloyal; 16 Liquid; 17 Diadem; 18 Zeus; 20 Rest.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is M. Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, all South East Asian countries.

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1720 2010	1810
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
1400 1700 2010	1310 1810
WE BOUGHT A ZOO - (PG) - FLS	CONTRABAND - (15) - FLS
FRIDAY, MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY	ALL WEEK
1710 2000	1520 1800 2040
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	THE WOMAN IN BLACK - (12A)
1420 1710 2000	SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
THE MUPPETS - (U)	1320
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	KIDS CLUB
1150	SATURDAY 17TH MARCH AND SUNDAY 18TH MARCH
THE HUNGER GAMES - (12A) - FLS	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS - (U) 1200
THURSDAY	PUS IN BOOTS - (U)
2000	1110
BEST EXOTIC MARIQUO HOTEL - (12A)	MONSTER IN PARIS - (U)
ALL WEEK	1120

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Andrew Grant is handling the sale of this handsome home – known as The Lindens – overlooking parkland in Hagley

Period home in a sought location

DESCRIBED as an exceptional period home in the sought-after village location of Hagley, The Lindens in Hall Lane is on the market priced at £769,500.

The property occupies a fine position overlooking historic Hagley Hall parkland estate on the edge of the village, which offers a selection of individual shops and restaurants together with first-rate schooling and a railway station.

The Lindens is a handsome period home of great character with architectural features including impressive

fireplaces, moulded dado rails and cornicing, sash windows and tall ceilings. The drawing room and dining room are particularly light and spacious, with fireplaces and wide bay windows overlooking the secluded frontage.

An everyday sitting room lies at the heart of the house, adjoining the kitchen breakfast room and also having French doors to the conservatory.

Generous

These areas, together with a generous formal breakfast room, make it ideal for family life, with the ground floor also having a study, utility room, cloakroom and garaging.

On the first floor are five bedrooms, the two main ones enjoying views over the parkland, and the principal served by a luxury en-suite.

The house is approached through wrought iron gates onto a stone chip parking and turning driveway with access to the garaging.

The frontage is particularly impressive with a sculpted lawn dressed by borders and mature trees, while the rear garden is laid on traditional lines by a shaped sun terrace and bordered private lawn. For further information, contact estate agent Andrew Grant on 01905 734735. Alternatively, go online and visit the site country.homes@andrew-grant.co.uk

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HAGLEY, MILL POOL CLOSE

Located in a peaceful location with lovely views is this unfurnished luxury ground floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Through Lounge/Dining Room with Views Across Open Countryside, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower & Separate WC, Communal Gardens, Parking Space and Garage. Available Beginning May

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CRADLEY HEATH, MARY MACARTHUR DRIVE

An unfurnished semi detached house, close to local transport, and shops, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garage, Cul-de-sac, Parking, Gardens

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CRADLEY HEATH, MOSSVALE CLOSE

Being tastefully re-furnished to a high standard and within walking distance of Old Hill train station is this three bedroom mid-terrace property, comprising of: Two Large Double and One Large Single Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Downstairs WC, Small Rear Garden, Garage at Rear of Property. Available Immediately.

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CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

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£475 PCM



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£475 PCM



TIPTON, FERGUSON DRIVE

A lovely modern first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing, Two Allocated Parking Spaces, Communal Gardens, Internal Viewing Recommended.

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ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

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OLDBURY Birch Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Modern link detached house * three bedrooms * conservatory * pleasant rear garden * viewing recommended Offers in the region of £214,950	HALESOWEN Astley Crescent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Traditional extended semi * 3 beds * Study/cot room * Through living room * Separate dining room * Bathroom & ensuite * Enclosed gardens Offers in the region of £199,950	OLDBURY Kingsway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Semi detached house * Three bedrooms * Extended lounge * Dining room * Sun lounge * Modernisation required * Pleasant gardens Offers in the region of £147,950	BEARWOOD Park Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mid terraced house * two good sized bedrooms * first floor re fitted bathroom * refitted kitchen * pleasant rear garden Offers in the region of £139,950	HALESOWEN The Rookery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mid terraced house * kitchen/diner * two good sized bedrooms * re fitted bathroom * attractive rear garden * off road parking Offers in the region of £124,950	CRADLEY HEATH Allbut Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Brand New semi detached * 3 beds (principal ensuite) * Lounge * Cloakroom * Kitchen/dining room * Endosed garden * Off road parking £120,000	BIRMINGHAM Quinton Ridgacre Road West <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mid terrace house * Three bedrooms * Lounge * Dining * Kitchen * Bathroom * Modernisation required * Great potential Offers in the region of £99,950
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MOTERING NEWS AND REVIEWS CHRONICLE MOTERING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Italian job moving on to the next generation

HOW times change. The first Fiat Panda arrived in 1980 and has become a design classic, thanks to a strict approach to keeping things simple and cheap.

The result was a functional, slab-sided car for people without much money, and with simple, flat (and cheap) glass, simple (and cheap) suspension and a clever (and cheap) rear seat of canvas stretched between two poles that lifted out to produce a Panda van, more or less.

Now, more than six million sales later comes the third generation Panda and it's no longer nearly so utilitarian, or so cheap. Competitively priced is how I'm sure Fiat would put it, but it's arrived in a fiercely fought part of the new car market and had better be good.

It looks like a slightly larger (all round) and more rounded version of the second generation Panda that arrived in 2003 and is, says Fiat, safer and more economical than before.

It also comes with the chance to have a

By Ian Donaldson

potential design classic under the bonnet if you tick the right box, as I did for the test car.

Called TwinAir, it's a tiny two-cylinder 875cc petrol engine that uses a turbo and clever technology to provide more power than you'd expect and claimed terrific economy (although more of that later).

Priced from £9,400 to £12,250, there's a choice of three petrol engines and a lone diesel. The test car, in mid-spec Easy trim cost £10,750.

In more rural parts of Italy, physical and spiritual homeland of the Panda, you'll still see plenty of old models about, a lot of them with four-wheel drive and ideal for life on a smallholding.

Expect to see all-wheel drive offered on the newcomer before too long, but on Britain's mainly tarred and only occasionally snowed upon roads, the front-wheel drive Panda ought to do well enough.

The test car, faced with nothing more

onerous than some pretty Cotswolds lanes, looked the part on the outside with simple, smoothly contoured lines and, inside, did a decent job of disguising the fact it had to be built to a strict price limit.

Without driver's seat height adjustment (£50 extra) and with the optional (£720) space robbing sunroof fitted there was an immediate conflict between head and roof, eased by retracting the roof blind and letting the sun shine in through the tinted glass above. A car without the sunroof proved more accommodating.

Most of the new Panda's increased length has been given over to increased rear seat room, helped by thinning the front seatbacks. From September you'll be able to buy a Panda with a sliding rear seat, while the car is now available with a middle seat headrest and safety belt to make use of the new car's extra width.

But the Panda is all about driving, once you've fired up the TwinAir engine and pulled away, to a soundtrack that's recalls a toned-down race track refugee. Give it some revs and this little baby fairly flies,

although you'll have a hard time checking its pace thanks to a desperately overstyled speedometer face. A ride that turns choppy on less than perfect surfaces didn't help.

After 40 miles of fun the trip computer read 44mpg. Not bad but not brilliant. Time to try harder on the economy front.

My passenger switched seats for the drive back to base and played very lightly with the accelerator as though it was heated to furnace temperature and

changed up when the dash indicator told him too.

All this restraint improved matters to a still-middling 49mpg and miles off the 67.8mpg quoted in the mandatory Euro test. There's only one conclusion; you might as well enjoy life in the latest little


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Record number of visitors turn out to enjoy premier motor show

A RECORD number of 28,500 visitors attended one of the country's premier motoring shows.

Race Retro, which was staged at the National Agricultural Showground at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire provided a wide variety of displays and exhibitions for classic car, sporting, supercar and motorcycle fans, over a period of three days.

A rally stage set in the extensive grounds gave spectators the chance to see, in full-blown dramatic action, the famous rally cars of yesteryear including the Metro 6R4, Subaru Impreza 555, Audi Quattro A2, Lotus Sunbeam Talbot, Porsche 911 ST, Ford Escort RS1600 and Works Mini Cooper S.

VIP visitors included pop star and renowned motoring enthusiast Jay Kay, of Jamiroquai, who was treated to the "ride of his life" through the special stage by rallying hero Bjorn Waldegard - in Jay's own Porsche 914. Jay later went on to buy a California Highway Patrol motorcycle from the auction, which he is to use in his next music video.

Other records tumbled at Race Retro through Silverstone Auctions, who reported the sale of a 1958 Trojeiro Jaguar for £286,000, 1960 Aston Martin DB4 for £170,000 and a crash helmet worn by the late legendary Formula One driver Ayrton Senna, which sold for £71,500.

The massive show halls included a gigantic auto jumble at which classic car drivers could spend hours searching for that elusive part for their cherished motors, or find rare tools and equipment to complete that long-term restoration project.

Local companies exhibiting at the show included Classic Motor Cars of Bridgnorth who had two of their fully restored Jaguars on display and Midland Automobile Club, organisers of Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, who had a stand with several specialist cars on show.

By Tony Adams



Nick Goldthorp and Andrew Turvey with Jaguars on the Classic Motor Cars of Bridgnorth stand



Midland Automobile Club stand, from left: David Moore, Rod Wheat, Peter Higginbottom and Chris Drewett

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10/60 B200 CDI Sport Manual

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Purchase activation fee [‡]	£95
Amount of credit	£14,240
Total amount payable ^{††}	£19,332
Total amount payable by customer ^{††}	£18,582
Fixed interest rate	5.30%
APR Representative	11.0%

09/59 C180K BlueEFFICIENCY SE Manual

Cash Price*	£13,890
48 Monthly payments	£264
Retailer deposit contribution [#]	£750
Optional purchase payment [†]	£4,220
Acceptance fee	£180
Purchase activation fee [‡]	£95
Amount of credit	£13,140
Total amount payable ^{††}	£17,917
Total amount payable by customer ^{††}	£17,167
Fixed interest rate	5.59%
APR Representative	11.7%



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[^]Offer available on selected models for a limited time only and until stocks last. No cash alternative. Retailer deposit contribution only available towards Agility finance. Road fund licence only for 12 months. Free tank of fuel only available on vehicle purchased. *Prices correct at time of press (03/12). Pictures for illustration purposes only. Calls may be recorded. Registered Office: Mercedes-Benz Retail Group UK Ltd, Tongwell, Milton Keynes MK15 8BA. Finance example based on a Mercedes-Benz Agility agreement, 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. Please ask a member of our Sales Team for more details. Finance is subject to status and only available to over 18s. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Written details are available on request. [†]Payable if you exercise the option to purchase the car. ^{††}Includes optional purchase payment and purchase activation fee. Available while stocks last at Mercedes-Benz Retail Used Cars Balsall Common and Birmingham. [#]Contribution only available on Agility finance schemes on selected vehicles provided by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Limited, while stocks last. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

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The Veloster coupe's new engine has an air-guided intercooler and direct fuel injection system

Hyundai turbo is taking bow at the Geneva Show

HYUNDAI have revealed a new turbocharged version of the 1+2 door Veloster sports coupe at the Geneva Motor Show.

Through the addition of a turbocharger, engineers at the Hyundai Motor Europe Technical Centre in Rüsselsheim, Germany, have boosted power output and increased low-end torque to best suit European driving tastes and enhance driver enjoyment.

The Veloster Turbo is the first Hyundai to feature the company's 1.6-litre GDI engine with a high-compression, twin-scroll turbocharger. In European specification, this new T-GDI unit generates 186 ps and 270 Nm of torque. In non-turbocharged form, the Veloster offers 140 ps and 167 Nm.

Tony Whitehorn, president and CEO of Hyundai Motor UK, said: "UK drivers tend to prefer more torque

from a lower engine speed, so our European engineers have specified a set-up that still provides a substantial increase in power – up from 140 ps to 186 ps – while also delivering the desired low-end torque. The resulting package is very competitive against the performance of competitors such as VW Scirocco and Vauxhall Astra."

"Veloster has quickly established itself as a fun car and a unique proposition," Whitehorn added. "The enhanced performance will increase the Veloster's appeal for drivers who want the perfect combination of stand-out design, a fun drive and the practicality of a hatchback."

Maximizing fuel efficiency and performance, the new engine has an air-guided intercooler, direct fuel injection system and dual CVT, with a bed plate and a serpentine auxiliary belt adopted for enhanced engine reliability.

Accelerating from 0-60 mph,

Veloster Turbo takes just 8.4 seconds (manual) compared to the 9.7 seconds (manual) of the regular Veloster*

Exact CO2 emissions and fuel economy figures for the new Veloster Turbo will be announced nearer to launch.

Veloster Turbo is fitted with a quicker-ratio steering rack and a revised steering calibration to match, which provide for precise cornering, feedback and control. As with the turbocharged engine, the front and rear suspension set-ups have been tuned to match the expectations of European drivers.

The Veloster Turbo will come with Hyundai's industry-best Five Year Triple Car assurance – a combination of a five-year unlimited warranty, five years of roadside assistance and five years of vehicle health checks.

Pricing for UK models will be announced nearer the launch.

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When looking for a builder don't be shy about asking to see jobs they have already done and talking to the previous customers about their experience, if you have the chance. Also be sure to check for membership of a trade association, such as the Federation of Master Builders.

Ask for details of how the builder should be paid and agree a payment plan in advance. This should be in instalments, as parts of the project are completed. Always make sure the builders' quote covers everything you would like done, including supply of materials, removal of rubbish and 'making good' after the work is finished.

For extra peace of mind and reassurance, get the work covered by an insurance-backed warranty, such as those offered by Build Assure or other providers. Build Assure offer a wide range of insurance products to suit your individual requirements, www.fmbuildassure.co.uk.

The Federation of Master Builders (FMB), the largest trade association in the UK construction industry, <http://www.fmb.org.uk/fab/>.



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anymore, A & L Mill 2nd point.
Thomas. X X

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SPORT

thechronicle

Crucial penalty save for Hawks

Studley 0
Halas Hawks Ladies 2

HALAS pulled off arguably their best ever win. Studley have games in hand in the title chase and victory for Halas was imperative. The turning point came when Halas keeper Gemma Scriven saved a penalty. In the next Hawks attack, Gemma Collidge shrugged off challenges to score. In the second half Becky Allsopp was put through to score the second.

Girls League
Halas Hawks U13 1
Withymoor Colts 0

The under-13s continued an excellent run of results with a hard-earned win over league champs Withymoor Colts in this cup game. Abigail Gennard was rewarded for persistence charging down a clearance, on her 100th appearance.

Halas Hawks U14 3
Withymoor Colts 2

This League Cup game was a fairly even affair, despite Halas scoring in the first minute and quickly adding a second. Withymoor were gifted an own goal and went on to level the tie. But Amy Blakemore completed her hat-trick in the last five minutes to win it for Halas.

Halas Hawks U16 4
Withymoor Colts 2

A magnificent performance by the under-16s saw them take all three points from high-flying Withymoor in this League Cup clash.

Halas were ahead inside five minutes thanks to a Kate Drew goal. The visitors levelled only for player-of-the-match Chloe Biddlestone to put Halas ahead again almost immediately. The second half saw the home team keep their cool and take the victory with a brace from Kelly Gorman.

Boys League

Halas Hawks U15 1 Gornal 1

The under-15s East drew an enthralling match. The away side took the lead early on but Halas equalised through Kane Campbell.

Dudley Jrs 0

Halas Hawks U16 4

A comfortable win with goals from Matt Grazier, Danny Hodges, Luke Patton and Alex Giles with man-of-the-match going to James Andrews, keeper playing outfield due to a hand injury.

Wombourne 1

Halas Hawks U18 2

The under-18s reached their second semi-final of the season with an impressive away win. Goals from Brad Hickman and Reece Shilcock.

Title bout ends as fighters disqualified

by Craig Birch

Doody had a walk-over to Sunday's national pre-quarter finals.

Meanwhile, Ricky Summers has revealed he's going to turn professional after his dream of becoming a senior ABA national amateur champion came to an end.

He was set to fight twice last weekend but fell at the first hurdle with a regional semi-final defeat to Aston ABC's Broderick Murphy in Lichfield last Saturday night.

That denied him a spot at the following day's Midlands finals

where Impact ABC's Jamal Ledoux claimed the 81kg title by beating Murphy.

Summers and his camp from Lions ABC, Dudley, were left to protest at what they insisted was a harsh decision the first time around against Murphy.

The Black Country fighter was docked two points by the referee from a combination of holding and hitting on the break, leading to his unanimous points loss.

The 24-year-old, an ABA national semi-finalist last year, is also carrying a perforated eardrum, but still hopes to make

his England debut for his country's select team against Wales at the weekend. But, whatever happens, his move to the paid ranks is imminent.

He said: "I will be trying my chances in the pro ranks now, I have been asked to do it by a lot of people and I need to sit down and weigh up what is best for me."

"There's not much left I can do now as an amateur."

Priory Park ABC's Luke Paddock was beaten in the ABA senior Midlands final for the second year in a row by Earl Shilton ABC's Sam Bowen at 63kg.

Rooney and co give Baggies a reminder

Man Utd 2 Albion 0

ALBION'S three successive wins cheered everyone at the club – but no-one got carried away.

There was little sign of complacency creeping into the Baggies camp despite a remarkable month that lifted spirits and raised expectations sky-high around The Hawthorns, writes Steve Madeley.

But a slick United gave Albion a gentle reminder of where they stand in the Premier League's established food chain.

Baggies fans might point to a hint of injustice over second-half penalty decisions at each end that looked oddly similar but both went the way of the home side and the whiff of controversy surrounding the first yellow card that led ultimately to the dismissal of key defender Jonas Olsson.

Yet they must also concede that the defending champions were simply too good on a day when this season's intriguing title race took a decisive shift in their favour.

Wayne Rooney netted a goal in each half to seal a routine win for Sir Alex Ferguson's side, who reclaimed top spot.

Pivotal

And, in an afternoon when they dominated possession and made the best chances, United might have won by more.

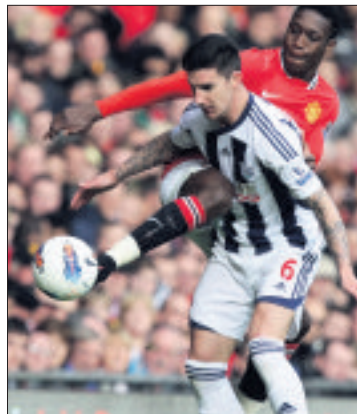
But Hodgson's men left Old Trafford with their pride – and hopefully their hard-earned momentum – largely intact after a brave, hard-working performance that meant the Red Devils were required to produce spells of form close to their best to claim what could be a pivotal three points.

There were some early moments of promise for the Baggies, who might even have taken an early lead had a full-stretch Keith Andrews been able to divert Liam Ridgeway's left-wing cross on target.

But the Irishman's near-post effort went wide and, as the half wore on, the home side upped the tempo, adopted a swagger and piled the pressure on Ben Foster's goal. The



The tackle that brought Jonas Olsson a second yellow card and dismissal



Danny Welbeck challenges Liam Ridgeway

former United keeper had to be on his guard to beat away a shot from chief menace Ashley Young after a weaving run by the eye-catching Danny Welbeck.

Andrews saw a low, skidding shot from Chris Brunt's short free-kick take a couple of deflections and fly wide as the Baggies gave David De Gea a rare scare.

But they were increasingly on the back-foot and Olsson, who was a colossal figure until his two second-half indiscretions, had to step in to stop Young in his tracks after a clever exchange of passes with Welbeck.

Young was enjoying his afternoon against makeshift Baggies full-back Gabriel Tamas and the former Villa man's cross from the left allowed Rooney to sting the hands of Foster and deliver a warning to Albion. It was one they were powerless to act upon and

it was little surprise when United claimed the lead nine minutes before half-time.

The fairly quiet Javier Hernandez drifted away from Liam Ridgeway and attempted to curl a shot inside the far post from the corner of the penalty area. As Albion waited for Foster to make a comfortable save, Rooney sprang from a crowd of bodies to divert the ball home.

The second half started much like the first for the Baggies, with a couple of promising sorties into United territory.

But United reasserted their authority as Rooney broke through the centre and squared for Hernandez to rattle the post.

Albion's mission became night-on impossible when Olsson, who had been booked a little harshly for an off-the-ball tangle with Rooney, dived in needlessly on Hernandez

and got a second booking. In the midst of United's dominance, Peter Odemwingie had a clear claim for a penalty waved away when he was clipped by Patrice Evra.

And that decision did not help the Baggies mood when they saw Young awarded a spot-kick with 19 minutes to go after the slightest brush with Andrews, who was filling in at right-back as Hodgson prepared a post-red-card reshuffle.

Rooney made no mistake from the spot and the Baggies only once threatened to reduce the arrears when Youssouf Mulumbu's driving run set up substitute Shane Long to sting the palms of De Gea.

The Hawthorns squad, who received a well-earned ovation at the end, showed they are no longer pushovers, but were reminded some challenges are still a little too big.

Death of Baggies' Barlow at age of 85

ALBION are in mourning following the death of Hawthorns legend Ray Barlow at the age of 85.

The 1954 FA Cup-winner, regarded as one of the club's finest ever players, died last night after a long illness.

The Swindon-born half-back was the last surviving member of the team that beat Preston 3-2 at Wembley in 1954 to win the FA Cup.

He made 482 appearances for the Baggies and scored 48 goals in 16 years at The Hawthorns. He won one England cap.

A Baggies statement said: "The great Ray Barlow stands at the pinnacle of the club's story, one of a handful of truly world-class footballers that Albion have produced over 130 years."

Barlow joined the Baggies as a teenager and made his debut in 1944, just two days after his 18th birthday. He became the creative lynchpin of one of the club's greatest-ever teams in the 1950s. He also played for Birmingham and in retirement ran a tobacconist and sweet shop in West Bromwich. He later ran a post office in Stourbridge and lived in the town until struck by ill health.

Bowes on the spot for winner

AFC Wulfrunians 1

STEVE BOWES' penalty two minutes from time gave West Midlands Regional League Premier Division pacesetters Black Country Rangers a vital win at third-placed AFC Wulfrunians.

Bowes and Alec Roberts both went close early on for the visitors while Wulfrunians' Nathan Rose-Laing was a fraction away from scoring.

Rangers' Liam Hughes prodded Roberts' low cross against the underside of the crossbar before the ball was cleared.

Rangers opened the scoring on the hour mark. David Meese cut in from the left before squaring across goal for Paul Oakley to fire home from close range.

But Wulfs levelled in the 82nd minute, Shawn Boothe heading in Ashley Burd's corner.

With two minutes left, Alex Hammond won a penalty which skipper Bowes tucked away.

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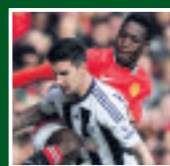
SPORT

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Forced landing

Reds bring Albion back to earth

Page 39



Shock KO

Both boxers in ABA final disqualified

Page 39

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Shocks as top-gun bowlers shot down

TOP GUNS struggled in the big money CCF Open crown bowling green competition at West Bromwich.

The contest, held at West Bromwich Football Supporters Club, has prize money totalling £3,820 with £1,000 to the winner.

It is also a qualifier for the British Crown Green Bowling Association's prestigious Champion of Champions tournament at Blackpool in September.

But shock exists have come thick and fast. Already out is last year's losing finalist Paul Lamb, 2010 winner Chris Mordue and top competition players Andy Spragg and Simon Coupe.

First to qualify for the final stages, to be held on April 8, was Shrewsbury's Wayne Phillips, who looked impressive with his wins. He was joined by Wednesday's Matt Hocknall.

Another local through is Steve Darling, from the George, Warley, who qualified from a tough group.

In-form Carl Fielding, from Kings Heath Park, followed last week's qualification in the Tony Pagett Open with another impressive display despite atrocious weather and was joined by Stoke's Kerry Morris.

Winner in 2009, Mike Tunstall, looked back to his best with three comfortable wins, while Chris Brown, from Sheffield, showed his class by disposing of former All England champion Darren Smith and one of Warwick and Worcester's rising stars Tom Palmer.

Birmingham's Tony Freeth decided to bowl with odd woods and progressed with his usual flamboyant style from probably the toughest group.

Qualifiers to date: Wayne Phillips (Meole Brace), Matt Hocknall (Moor Lane), Dave Jones (Ecclesham), Steve Darling (George), Kerry Morris and Gary Owen (Birches Head Hotel), Carl Fielding (Kings Heath Park), Mike Tunstall (Brooke Hotel), Clay Flatley (Castlefields), Tony Freeth (Richmond), Chris Brown (Lower Hopton), Dennis Herbert (Greville), Richard Goldby (Swadincote Caths), Glynn Storer (Windmill), Mark Denman (Baldmere S.M), Derek Wright (Chester Road).

German success in tennis final

PETER TOREBKO, of Germany, claimed the singles title at the AEGON GB Pro-Series at Tipton Sports Academy by defeating Britain's Josh Goodall 6-3, 6-2.

In the opening set, games went with serve until 4-3 when Goodall was broken and Torebko served out. In the second, he broke Goodall twice. The Brit broke back to 3-1 before losing serve again.

Ben's bonanza as he races to victory

Ben Fund speedway

HOME STAR Ben Barker triumphed in speedway's season-opening Ben Fund Bonanza at Birmingham.

He survived a semi-final shoot-out, taking second place behind Danish star Nicki Pedersen as the two joined Brummie Danny King and Chris Harris in the final.

Coventry ace Harris had looked the likely winner going into the denouement after some trademark passing from the back, none better than the heat eight effort which took him from fourth to first in a lap.

He also surprised Nicki Pedersen in heat 15 with a driving move up the inside out of turn two to wrest victory from the three-

time world champion. Harris seemed to have repeated the trick in the final, but Barker – the only man to take part in all four Ben Fund meetings – just managed to get across his rival going into the next corner and held on to win.

Nicki Pedersen's challenge faltered after he and King touched, the Birmingham skipper going on to take third place.

Racing was very competitive for a charity event, the Grand Prix riders present looking to hit their stride with the New Zealand GP

under three weeks away. Rory Schlein stalked Nicki Pedersen throughout heat 20 before launching a successful last-bend pass which also saw Hans Andersen sneak second on the line.

Wolves duo Ty Proctor and Nicolai Klindt scored four and three respectively while club new-boy Lukasz Sowka struggled initially against a high-calibre field but gradually got onto the pace.

Ironically for a riders' charity meeting, Dudley Heathens star Adam Roynon suffered a horrifying crash. He was contesting second place with Grand Prix star Bjarne Pedersen in heat 19 when he picked up grip

crossing the start line, touched his rival and fell heavily into the fence.

The 23-year-old was taken off the Perry Barr track in an ambulance and left limping heavily afterwards but avoided major injury.

"Me and Bjarne were quite close and I gripped on the start line; my bike just took off," he said.

Final: 1 Ben Barker, 2 Chris Harris, 3 Danny King, 4 Nicki Pedersen (ret). **Semi-final:** 1 Nicki Pedersen, 2 Ben Barker, 3 Rory Schlein, 4 Josh Auty. **Points:** Danny King 11, Chris Harris 10, Rory Schlein 10, Ben Barker 9, Nicki Pedersen 9, Josh Auty 9, Bjarne Pedersen 8, Kenneth Eljer 8, Niels-Kristian Versen 6, Ryan Fisher 6, Hans Andersen 5, Lee Richardson 5, Adam Shields 4, Ty Proctor 4, Patrick Hougard 4, Nicolai Klindt 3, Richard Hall 3, Adam Roynon 2, Andrew Tully 2, Lukasz Sowka 1.

Former star with Yeltz hits hat-trick

Tiverton Town 4 Halesowen Town 2

FORMER Halesowen striker Michael Nardiello hit a Tiverton hat-trick in a six-goal thriller.

After a good start, the Yeltz were three goals down in 25 minutes.

Jules Emati-Emati rounded goalkeeper Paul Evans to slot home the first in the 11th minute, from Nardiello's flick.

Four minutes later, leading scorer Nardiello took advantage of further defensive indecision to fire past Evans.

He made it 3-0, slotting home a 25th-minute penalty, after he was clipped by Richard Huckfield.

But Halesowen's Ben Haseley started the recovery by beating goalkeeper Chris Wright to the ball and setting up Marcus Jackson to tap home on 58 minutes.

Haseley did even better with a sublime 73rd-minute solo goal, winning the chase for a long ball and whipping his shot past Wright to make it 3-2.

But the fightback ended when Michael McGrath was sent off.

The hosts punished 10-man Yeltz in added time, when Nardiello completed his hat-trick.

Club is hoping to net players

GRASSHOPPERS Netball Club are looking for new players. The club is staging open sessions on Tuesday evenings at Haden Hill Leisure Centre (6-7pm).

Each session costs £3.20 (£1.60 concessions) and there is no need to pre-book.

Details: www.grasshoppers-netball.co.uk or call 0121 550 3579.

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HAMILTON BROTHER SIGNS RACING DEAL

WEDNESBURY team Total Control Racing have signed up Nicolas Hamilton for the new AirAsia Renault Clio Cup UK season.

Hamilton, brother of 2008 Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton, campaigned with the Bridge Street-based outfit last year. The 19-year-old will be partnered by promising saloon car newcomer Rob Smith.

Hamilton made a big impact on Clio Cup racing in his debut season last year, finishing 14th overall in the 16-race championship.

He has cerebral palsy and uses a specially adapted Renault Clio.

The driver, whose campaign was the subject of a recent BBC television documentary *Racing with the Hamiltons*, enjoyed a best race result of ninth in the penultimate round at Brands Hatch and also achieved two other top 10 finishes.

"I'm really happy to be racing with TCR," he said.

"I'm with a great team in a hugely competitive series and the main aim for me this year is to continue to develop my race craft, using the knowledge and understanding I gained last year as a strong base."

Hamilton will be partnered by 19-year-old Smith, who is studying automotive engineering at Loughborough University. He moves into saloon cars from the ranks of club-level Formula Ford.

Smith, the son of former British Touring Car Championship racer Paul, was fourth overall in North West Formula Ford 1600 last year.

TCR team principal Lee Brookes said: "We're delighted to be able to confirm Rob alongside Nic



Nicolas Hamilton – deal
Picture: Jakob Ebrey

for the new season. "It's going to be a very interesting year for both of them and we're confident they're each going to do a great job."

"Nic's progress last year was fantastic and with all of the experience he gained, added to his amazing determination, we're sure he can spring a few surprises – it's a pleasure to be working with him."

"Rob has shown some really encouraging pace in the few tests he's done with us and we've got very high hopes for what he can achieve as the championship moves forward, he's definitely one to watch."

Smith, who had a test outing with TCR last month, said he was delighted to agree a deal.

Five-a-side girls proud of place in finals

GIRLS from a Halesowen school got a real kick out of winning through to the finals of a national five-a-side competition.

The 11 and 12-year-olds from Windsor High School and Sixth Form stormed through the regional heats, winning four out of five games, to play in the English Schools five-a-side indoor tournament finals held in Derby.

Although they did not get through to the final matches at the national event, PE teacher and team manager Sarah Holder said: "The girls have really done fantastically well to reach the last eight in the whole country."

"They have done the school proud and should be extremely pleased with themselves."

"They are a credit to the school."

The girls in the squad were Madi Hughes, captain, Phoebe Kelsall, Molly Kelly, Lauren Baker, Beth Gallagher, Shannon Stamps – who turns out for the West Bromwich Albion girls team – Becky Lavender and Beth Roberts.



The five-a-side team at Windsor High, front from left, Lauren Baker and Shannon Stamps; centre, Phoebe Kelsall and Beth Gallagher and top, Beth Roberts, Becky Lavender, team manager Sarah Holder, Madi Hughes and Molly Kelly

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